

National University of Ireland, Galway  
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 2004/5

**PHILOSOPHY**

**THIRD ARTS EXAMINATION**

Professor W. Desmond  
Professor M.H. Woerner  
Dr. F. Ó Murchadha

Time: 2 hours

**PI327      Philosophy of Religion**

Please attempt two (2) of the following questions. No more than one question (1) may be attempted in any section.

**Section A**

1. Discuss *either* (a) faith and trust (belief in ...), making reference to the story of 'doubting Thomas' (John 20: 24-29) *or* (b) the relation of faith and reason, making reference to Kierkegaard's discussion of Abraham's 'sacrifice' of Isaac.
2. Evaluate Rudolf Otto's attempt in *The Idea of the Holy* to distinguish between natural and non-(or super)natural emotions.
3. Discuss the different ways in which divine power is conceived in the Ancient Greek and Judaeo-Christian religions.

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**Section B**

1. Discuss the view that forgiveness is an excessive giving. Make reference to at least two of the following authors: Hannah Arendt, Jacques Derrida and John Milbank.
2. The injunction 'love your enemies' is central to the Christian notion of love (*agápe*). Discuss with reference to the "Sermon on the Plain" (Luke 6: 20-35).
3. Discuss the Christian account of humility in relation to *kenósis* (emptying) in the context of Nietzsche's attack on Christianity as 'slave morality'.

### **Section C**

1. Discuss the religious significance of ritual in relation to the concept of sincerity.
2. Gothic Cathedrals are signs of the absence of God, while Greek Temples mark the place of the divinity in the world. Discuss
3. Prayerful utterances are neither true nor false, but are nonetheless meaningful. Discuss.