

God's Ineffable Nature	
Instructor: Daniel Kodaj	
Aim of the course: This is an English-language seminar for doctoral students. It focuses on the venerable theological claim that God's true nature is incomprehensible and inexpressible. What exactly does this mean, and how does it impact the metaphysics of God? Is it impossible to speak about God? If it does, what remains of traditional religion? Schedule: Sept 10. introduction, course overview Sept 17. William James: "Mysticism" (lectures 16–17 from <i>The Varieties of Religious Experience</i>) Sept 24. Olli-Pekka Vainio (2020) <i>Religious Language</i> Oct 1. William Alston (1956): "Ineffability" Oct 8. John Hick (2000): "Ineffability" Oct 15. Emmanuel Levinas (1969) "Metaphysics and transcendence" (excerpt from <i>Totality and Infinity</i>) Oct 22. Emmanuel Levinas (1998) "God and philosophy" Oct 29. (autumn break) Nov 5. Adriaan T. Peperzak (2019) "Toward the Infinite" Nov 12. Adrian W. Moore (2003) Ineffability and religion Nov 19. Peter van Elswyk (2025) "Metalinguistic apophaticism" Nov 26. David Efird & David Andrew Worsley (2017) "What an Apophaticist Can Know: Divine Ineffability and the Beatific Vision" Dec 3. JC Beall & Michael DeVito (2023) <i>Entailment, Contradiction, and Christian Theism</i> Dec 10. Peter Kügler (2003): "The logic and language of Nirvana" Assessment: • 2 presentations (2 of the texts above) (2 x 25%) • essay: min. 15 000 characters, deadline 10 January (50%) (lateness penalty: minus 10% per week commenced (–10% from 11 Jan, –20% from 18 Jan etc.) Grading: 90–100% A ("jeles"), 80–89% B ("jó"), 70–79% C, 60–69% D, 0–59% F. AI policy: You can (and should!) use AI for digging up literature, checking the meaning of concepts, and testing arguments. However, if you submit an essay that <i>looks like</i> an AI-generated text, you will automatically get an F. Some characteristics of AI-generated texts: • bland, robotic prose style • focus on widely known facts • rehearsing already existing arguments • bombastic slogans, sloppy reasoning • lack of tight (local and global) argumentative structure. I emphasize that the question is not whether your essay was <i>generated</i> by AI (there is no objective test for that). The question is whether your essay <i>looks like</i> an AI-generated text. If you use AI to generate your assignments, that's bad, but it is equally bad if you write something as superficial and platitudinous as an AI text.	

