



THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY—SPRING 2008
85350: HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY
WEDS. 11:30-2:20 P.M. N207

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. Col 2.8

Course Objectives

The study is designed so the seminar participant may develop an advanced understanding of the history of philosophy and its impact on Christian theology and mission.

Text Books

REQUIRED

1. Copleston, Frederick. 9 Vols. *A History of Philosophy*. Various publishers & formats acceptable. [Hereafter *History*].
2. Baldwin, Thomas. *Contemporary Philosophy: Philosophy in English Since 1945*. New York: Oxford, 2002. [English]
3. Kearney, Richard, ed. *Continental Philosophy in the 20th Century: Routledge History of Philosophy, Vol. 8*. Routledge, 2003. [Continental]
4. Plantinga, Alvin. *Warranted Christian Belief*. New York, Oxford, 2000.
5. Individual assigned readings from the philosophers are acceptable in any edition and need not be purchased.

Assignments

Each seminar participant will write and present a research paper on a philosopher, movement or subject to be determined in conjunction with the professor. The paper should represent the writer's finest research and writing, understanding that the professor will be the target reader. The style should carefully follow the Southern Seminary Style Manual. No length requirements or restrictions apply to the paper. A copy of the paper shall be presented to each seminar participant one week in advance of the paper presentation date. Presentations will be scheduled to coincide with corresponding reading assignments if possible. The copies may be single-spaced and double-sided, but the professor's copy shall be double-spaced, single-sided with a font size no less than 12. On the date assigned, the paper writer will have about 45 minutes to summarize his paper and then respond to questions from the group. The following signed statement should be included on the cover sheet of the research paper:

On my honor, I have neither given nor taken improper assistance in completing this assignment. Signed: _____

In addition to a careful advance reading of each paper, seminar members are also expected to have read thoroughly the assigned readings as minimum preparation for discussing the topic of each week's seminar. Though the professor will lecture on the material covered in the weekly readings, it is imperative that each participant be prepared to contribute to discussion. A 2-3 page outline of each week's reading assignment is due at the beginning of each seminar.

Grading and Evaluation

According to seminary guidelines, seminar participants must earn at least a grade of B to pass the course.

1. The research paper will count 60% toward the final semester grade (80% substance, 10% form, and 10% presentation).
2. Reading outlines will account for 30% of the course grade.
3. Intelligent participation in the seminars based on careful advance reading will contribute 10% of the semester grade.

Seminar Schedule

Jan.	30	<i>History, Vol.1., Parts I-III Plato, Republic, Bk.7</i>
Feb.	06	<i>History, Vol.1, Parts IV-V Aristotle, Metaphysics, Bks.1, 12</i>
	13	<i>History, Vol.2 Augustine, Bks.1,11</i>
	20	<i>History, Vol.3 Aquinas, Summa Theologica, Part 1, QQ.I,II,X.art.2</i>
	27	<i>History, Vol.4 Descartes, Meditations, 3rd Meditation</i>
Mar.	05	<i>History, Vol.5 Locke, Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Bk.1 Hume, Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion, Pts.9-12</i>
	12	<i>History, Vol.6 Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, Introduction Reid, An Inquiry into the Human Mind on the Principles of Common Sense, Chap.1</i>

Seminar Schedule (con'td.)

- Mar. 19 *History*, Vol.7
Hegel, *Science of Logic*, Vol.1, Bk.1, Sec.1, Ch.1
Kierkegaard, *Concluding Unscientific Postscript*,
Book I, Ch.2
Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, Aphorisms 125, 283, 285, 343
- 26 *History*, Vol.8
Bentham, *The Principles of Morals and Legislation*,
Chaps.1,4
James, *Pragmatism*, Chap.6
Dewey, *The Quest for Certainty*, Chap.10
- Apr. 02 *History*, Vol.9
English, chaps.1-2
Russell, "Why I Am Not a Christian" (essay only)
Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, §§1-25
- 09 **SPRING READING DAYS: NO SEMINAR**
English, chaps.3-6
Ryle, *The Concept of Mind*, Chap.1
Quine, "Two Dogmas of Empiricism"
(online, e.g., <http://www.ditext.com/quine/quine.html>)
- 16 *English*, chaps.7-11
Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Chap.1
Rorty, *Objectivity, Relativism, and Truth*,
Pt.1, "Solidarity or Objectivity?"
- 23 *Continental*, chaps.1-6
Heidegger, *Being and Time*, Chap.1
Sartre, *Being and Nothingness*, Conclusion
- 30 *Continental*, chaps.7-10
Habermas, *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity*,
Chap.11
Gadamer, *Truth and Method*, II.1. (A)-(B)
- May 07 *Continental*, chaps.11-14
Derrida, *Of Grammatology*, Chap.1
Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition*, Intro., Secs.9-11,14
Plantinga, *Warranted Christian Belief*, Parts III-IV