



THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY—FALL 2008
85420: GOD IN MODERN PHILOSOPHY
WEDS. 11:30 AM—2:20 PM; N207; DR. TED CABAL

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 Description

A study of the major concepts of God in philosophical thought, the perennial debate on the coherence of theism, and the classical and contemporary arguments for the existence of God, with special reference to pivotal thinkers from Thomas Aquinas to contemporary analytical philosophers.

Text Books

REQUIRED

1. Morris, Thomas. Our Idea of God. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1991. [hereafter *Idea*]
2. Beilby, James K., ed. For Faith and Clarity: Philosophical Contributions to Christian Theology. Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2006. [hereafter *Faith*]
3. Quinn, P. and Taliaferro, C., eds. A Companion to Philosophy of Religion. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1997. [hereafter *Companion*]

Assignments

Each seminar participant will write and present a **research paper** on a seminar relevant topic 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. As per SBTS requirement, the paper should include the following signed statement: "On my honor, I have neither given nor taken improper assistance in completing this assignment." No length restrictions apply to the paper, but 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. 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 30 minutes to present (not read) his paper. He will then respond to questions from the seminar participants.

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. It is imperative that each participant be prepared to contribute to the discussion. A 3-5 page **reading summary** 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 summaries will account for 24% (2% ea.) of the course grade.
3. Intelligent participation in the seminars based on careful advance reading will contribute 16% of the semester grade.

When You Need to Reach Me

My office is Norton 278. When possible please schedule an appointment for office discussions. Email is the preferred and easiest way to reach me. Do not hesitate to contact me should the need arise.

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Home: 502.412.2481
Email: tcabal@sbts.edu

Class Schedule

THE FOLLOWING CAN BE MODIFIED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PROFESSOR.

Aug	20	<i>Introduction to the Course</i> Idea , chapter 1 Companion , chapters 6, 8,9 Faith , chapter 1
	27	The Trinity Idea , pp.174-84 Companion , chapter 66
Sep	03	Christology Idea , pp.159-74 Companion , chapter 67
	10	Perfect Being Theology/Ontological Argument Idea , chapter 2 Companion , chapters 27,33,41 Faith , chapters 2,8
	17	Divine Goodness and the Moral Argument Idea , chapter 3 Companion , chapters 30,44,57 Faith , chapter 10
	24	Omnipotence Idea , chapter 4 Companion , chapter 28

Oct	01	Omniscience Idea , chapter 5 Companion , chapters 29,37
	08	FALL BREAK: NO SEMINAR
	15	Omnipresence Companion , chapters 34,36 Faith , chapter 6
	22	God and Time Idea , chapter 7 Companion , chapter 32
	29	Providence and Freedom Idea , chapter 8 Companion , chapters 38,39,72 Faith , chapter 11
Nov	05	Simplicity and Immutability Idea , chapter 6 Companion , chapters 31,40 Faith , chapter 7
	12	Cosmological and Teleological Arguments Companion , chapters 42,53,43 Faith , chapter 9
	19	Research Paper Discussions

A Short Bibliography

- Craig, William Lane. *The Cosmological Argument from Plato to Leibnitz*. Reprint, Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2001.
- _____. *God, Time and Eternity*. Dordrecht: Kluwer, 2001.
- Crisp, Oliver, ed. *Reader in Contemporary Philosophical Theology*. New York: T & T Clark, 2009.
- Davis, Stephen. *Christian Philosophical Theology*. New York: Oxford, 2006.
- Dembski, William. *The Design Inference*. New York: Cambridge, 1998.
- Double, Richard. *The Non-Reality of Free Will*. New York: Oxford, 1991.
- Fergusson, David. *Scottish Philosophical Theology*. Charlottesville, VA: Imprint, 2007.
- Fischer, John Martin. *The Metaphysics of Free Will*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1994.
- Flint, Thomas. *Divine Providence*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell, 1998.
- Flint, Thomas, and Michael Rea, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophical Theology*. New York: Oxford, 2009.

A Short Bibliography (cont'd.)

- Ganssle, Gregory, and David Woodruff, eds. *God and Time*. New York: Oxford, 2001.
- Hasker, William, David Basinger and Eef Dekker, eds. *Middle Knowledge*. Frankfurt, Germany: Peter Lang, 2000.
- Hebblethwaite, Brian. *Philosophical Theology and Christian Doctrine*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005.
- Helm, Paul. *The Providence of God*. Downer's Grove: IVP, 1994.
- Leslie, John, ed. *Modern Cosmology and Philosophy*. 2d ed. Amherst, N.Y.: Prometheus, 1998.
- Morris, Thomas. *The Logic of God Incarnate*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell, 1986.
- _____, ed. *Philosophy and the Christian Faith*. Notre Dame, IN: Notre Dame, 1988.
- O'Connor, Timothy. *Persons and Causes*. New York: Oxford, 2000.
- Oppy, Graham. *Ontological Arguments and Belief in God*. New York: Cambridge, 1995.
- Plantinga, Alvin. *The Nature of Necessity*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1974.
- _____, ed. *The Ontological Argument*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1965.
- Swinburne, Richard. *The Christian God*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1994.

Guidelines for papers submitted in this course are found in the Southern Seminary Manual of Style available in the LifeWay Christian Bookstore located in the Honeycutt Center.

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.