Course Description: This course is designed to introduce the student to the field of philosophical reflection with particular care being given to the relationship philosophy has to theological and biblical studies. Most students entering seminary have little or no background in the study of philosophy, apart from an introductory course in college. This course assumes no previous knowledge on the part of the student but does require that the student vigorously engage the material so as to make up for the deficit in this area. One cannot understand most of contemporary biblical and theological writings without some awareness of and interaction with philosophical texts and ideas. There is a philosophy not according to Christ, but rather according to the principles of this world. It is your job as students of scripture to be able to distinguish between the two. This requires a level of familiarity with the history of ideas and their application.

Course Objectives:

1. The student will have a firmer grasp of the history of western philosophy.
2. The student will have a better understanding of the linkages between different periods in the history of philosophy.
3. The student will have a better understanding of the importance of understanding philosophy for making sense out of our theological past and present.

Outline of Course:

- Pre-Socratics
- Plato
- Aristotle
- Early Modern
- Late Modern
- Postmodern

Primary Texts:

1. John Frame/Doctrine of the Knowledge of God
2. Colin Gunton/ The Triune Creator(To be read by Oct17th)
3. Richard Tarnas, Passion of the Western Mind

Assessment:

1. There will be one exam. 50% of Final Grade
2. Questions on DKG are due on October 5th. 50% of Final Grade.

Note: Exam questions will be taken from lectures and readings.