This course aims to inform students about the most influential philosophies of the 20th century. It will study 20th century philosophers with an eye to see what Christians may learn from them but also with an eye to evaluating them from a biblical perspective. The course will emphasize the epistemology and the view of the self held by major 20th c. philosophers. It is an advanced, seminar type course and therefore students should enroll only if they have previously had RTS’ course on the History of Philosophy or its equivalent. Exceptions may be made only with special permission from the professor.

The required text will be “SOCRATES TO SARTRE” by Stumpf, 7th edition. The class will meet Tuesdays from 6-9 P.M. Each student will be scheduled, at our 2nd meeting, to sign up for preparing a brief, 20 minute oral report to be presented to the class per the schedule below. The research for the report may include material from Stumpf, an encyclopedia or other source book and will list the key thoughts of a philosopher listed below. Exams (mid-term and final) will be based on students’ knowledge derived from the lectures, seminar discussions and reading assignments.

Required reading assignments, in addition to Stumpf, a number of philosophers are listed on the back of this paper. We have requested that some of their writings be placed on a reserved shelf in the Library. If an assigned reading cannot be secured, read something by or about the person(s) assigned for each date from an encyclopedia or some other source. (Check the library’s computer to see if there are alternate readings in our library.) The final grade will be based upon mid-term and final exams, oral reports and class discussions.

SYLLABUS:
August 29 - Precursors of Modern Philosophy: Descartes, Kant, empiricism, Rationalism, Romanticism.
  “  19- Frege, Husserl
September 12- Einstein, Heisenberg, Polkinghorne.
  “  03- Neo- Thomism, Gilson, Maritain.
  “  17- Bergson, Chardin, Marcel, Jaspers.
  “  24- Whitehead, Hartshorne, John Cobb.
  “  31- The Vienna Circle, Wittgenstein, Quine, Ayers, Popper.(mid term exam)
October 03- Heidegger, Sartre, Camus, deBeauvoir.
  “  14- Merleau-Ponty, Foucault, Derrida.
  “  28- Lonergan, Plantinga, John Rawls, Deleuze
November 07- Lyotard,Gadamer, Habermas, Baudrillard.
READING REQUIREMENTS FOR MODERN PHILOSOPHY

The following list contains supplemental readings to be read in conjunction for each topic listed on the other side of this page. The text for the course is Stumpf’s “From Socrates to Sartre”. First, read in Stumpf about the persons assigned for any given date and then read at least one supplemental reading listed below for that date. If the supplemental reading is not available, check the Library’s computer to see if the library has another holding by the person assigned for the particular date. Be resourceful in finding something written by at least one person assigned for each date. If a reading is not available, read another thinker listed in the syllabus for the same week. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU READ EACH WEEK FROM AN ORIGINAL SOURCE, in addition to reading from Stumpf.

The recommended readings will be:

September 12: Polkinghorne: “Science and Theology”.
   “ 19: Husserl: “Philosophy as a rigorous Science”.
   “ 26: Peirce: ”Essays on the Philosophy of Science” or Rorty: “Mirror of Nature”.

October 03: Gilson: “The Spirit of Medieval Philosophy”
   17: Bergson: “The Creative Mind”; and either
   Chardin: “The Phenomenon of Man” or
   Marcel: “The Mystery of Being”.
   “ 31: Wittgenstein: “Philosophical Investigations” or”
   Quine: “Word and Object” or
   Ayer: “The Problem of Knowledge”.

November 07: Heidegger: “Being and Time” or
   Sartre: “Being and Nothingness” and
   Camus: “The Myth of Sisyphus”.
   “ 14: Merleau-Ponty: ”Signs” or
   Foucault: “The Order of Things” or
   Derrida: “Grammatology”.
   “ 21: Levi- Strauss: “The Savage Mind” or
   Levinas: “Alterity and Transcendence” or

December 05: Gadamer: “Truth and Method” or
   Habermas: “Theory of Communicative Action”