ST504: History of Philosophy and Christian Thought. 3 hours
Meeting Time: Thursdays 1:00 PM – 3:55 PM; Aug 20–Nov 30
Meeting Place: DC 2
Fall, 2015

Contact Information
Prof.: Bruce Baugus Office Phone: 601-923-1696 (x696) TA: Chris Pechan
Office: DC Email: bbaugus@rts.edu or bpaugus@gmail.com
Hours: M-Th whenever I am not teaching

Catalog Course Description
This Course is a critical, historical survey of the development of the main schools of philosophy and the principal developments in Christian doctrine and thought. After a brief introduction to philosophical thinking, the course concentrates on philosophical movements from Heraclitus to contemporary existentialism. Each school of thought is evaluated from a distinctively Reformed perspective.

Explanation
Philosophy is inescapable and the relationship between philosophy and Christian thought, life, and ministry is varied and complex. The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with some of the most significant philosophical contributions, influences, and challenges to Christian thought. We will consider the relationship between philosophy and theology, and critique the various philosophical methods and proposals discussed in class beginning with pre-Socratic philosophy and running through contemporary postmodern thought. The primary objective of this course is to survey that body of philosophy students should know in order to (1) understand the development and present form of Christian thought and (2) be culturally literate.

Textbooks & Readings
Textbooks (Required)
Colin Brown, Christianity & Western Thought, vol. 1 only (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1990)

Primary Readings (Required)
Augustine, On Christian Teaching (various publishers and online)
Immanuel Kant, Religion within the Limits of Reason Alone
David Hume, Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion
Homemade Reader (primary readings listed below posted on Self-Service and on reserve in Library)

Recommended

Assignments
Reading Reports: Each week students are expected to bring to class a summary of the major points or themes of the assigned primary readings for that day’s discussion (if any). Students may be asked to summarize their thoughts on a particular reading and may use their summaries to help them in class discussions. These summaries will be collected at the end of the class and graded.

Exams: Two exams will cover course content including assigned readings and class lectures and discussions. They will consist primarily of objective and short answer type questions but will likely also include a few essay questions. NOTE: The mid-term exam will be completed by students under the honor code over Fall break.

Course Grade
Reading Reports 40%
Exams 60% (30% each)

1 This requirement is subject to change for fall 2015. Check with professor after August 1.
### Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Primary course objective is for students to become familiar with and gain discernment on theologically relevant themes in the Hist. of Phil. For Christian Thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Various perspectives and proposals in the Hist. of Phil. will be critiqued in light of Scripture. Scripture is frequently brought into lectures and discussions and applied to topics at hand. See “Desire for Worldview” below.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reformed Theology</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The class is taught from an explicitly Reformed orthodox perspective and devotes a unit to the philosophical background to Reformed Theology.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>The course aims at increasing students’ awareness and discernment of formative ideas for Christian thought and life.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>This, as it applies to the life of the mind and history of ideas, would be the <em>raison d’être</em> of the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winsomely Reformed</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>The professor strives to model and encourage this ethos in the course as we consider and critique various alternative ideas, values, etc. See also “Church/World” below.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preach</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Indirect relevance as we consider the vernacular manifestation of philosophical ideas and how this impacts ministry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>See “Preach” above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Students should grow in appreciation for the continuity of Christian thought over centuries. See also “Winsomely Reformed” above.</td>
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