A society cannot survive for long unless the majority of its people have clear, justified, sustainable convictions about the source and criteria of knowledge.

This course focuses on basic epistemological questions. It deals with various sources, types, norms, and justifications of knowledge throughout Western history. It touches on the thought of Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Bacon, Descartes, Locke, Kant, Marx, Kierkegaard, Wittgenstein, Clark, Van Til, Polanyi, Goldman, Rorty, Wolterstorff and Plantinga, evaluating each in light of biblical teaching. The effort will be made to develop a thoroughly biblical epistemology. The textbooks for the course are “Faith and Rationality” (F&R) edited by Plantinga and Wolterstorff and “Epistemology” (Ep) edited by David Cooper. The latter book is composed of original sources. Grades will be determined by mid-term and final exams together with term papers and participation in class discussions.

February 05 Read F&R- Introduction---Nicholas Wolterstorff
   “  12: Read F&R- Chapter 1 by Alvin Plantinga, Chap. 2 by George Mavrodes
   “  19: Read Ep- Chap. 1-3, Plato,Aristotle, Sextus Empiricus
   “  26: Read Ep- Chap. 7, 8, 9, Descartes, Locke,Hume.
March 05: Read F&R- Chap. 3 “The Stranger”by Mavrodes-
   “  12: Read F&R- Chap. 5 “Can Belief in God be Rational…?” Wolterstorff
   “  19: Read F&R- Chap. 10, 11, 12- Reid, Kant,Nietzsche,
April 02: Read Ep- Chap. 6 “Turning”, Mavrodes
   “  09: Read F&R, C.S.Peirce, Chap.13; Read Husserl ch 14.
   “  16: Read Ep- Chap.7, “Jerusalem and Athens”by Mavrodes
   “  23: Read F&R, Moritz Schlick, Chap.16
   “  30: Read ch.17, F&R, Wittgenstein,
May 07: Read Ep “Faith, Reason, the Resurrection,” Holwerda
   “  14: Today’s challenge to Christian philosophers