MODERN (20th century) PHILOSOPHY and Christian Thought
Prof. Charles S. MacKenzie, Th.D./ Ph.D., L.H.D.
3 credit hours
Fall 2007
Teaching Assistant:

Course Description
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 course and therefore students should enroll only if they have previously had at least RTS’ course on the History of Philosophy or its equivalent. Exceptions may be made only with special permission from the professor.

Assignments & Reading Material
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.

There are required reading assignments, in addition to Stumpf. See reading list on page 2 of syllabus. We have requested that some of their writings be placed on the reserve 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.

Schedule
Aug. 28- Precursors of Modern Philosophy: Descartes, Kant, empiricism, Rationalism, romanticism.
Sept. 4- Einstein, Heisenberg, Polkinghorne.
   “ 11- Frege, Husserl
   “ 25- Neo-Thomism, Gilson, Maritain
Oct. 2- Bergson, Chardin, Whitehead.
   “ 9- Hartshorne, John Cobb, Marcel, Jaspers.
   “ 23- The Vienna Circle, Russell, Wittgenstein, Quine, Ayers, Popper.
   “ 30- Heidegger, Sartre, Camus, deBeauvoir
Nov. 6- Merleau-Ponty, Foucault, Derrida.
   “ 20- Lonergan, Plantinga, John Rawls, Deleuze
READING REQUIREMENTS FOR MODERN PHILOSOPHY

The following list contains supplemental readings to be read in conjunction with each topic listed on the syllabus 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. You must turn in at class, each week, a one paragraph (10-15 sentences) summary of what you have read. The recommended readings will be:

September 04: Polkinghorne: “Science and Theology”.
   11: Husserl: “Philosophy as a rigorous Science”.
   18: Peirce: “Essays on the Philosophy of Science” or Rorty: “Mirror of Nature”.
   25: Gilson: “The Spirit of Medieval Philosophy”

   09: Cobb, Marcel, Jaspers
   23: Wittgenstein: “Philosophical Investigations”
   30: Sartre: “Nausea”, or “Camus, “The Fall”

November 06: Foucault: “The Order of Things” or Derrida: “Grammatology”
   13: Levinas: “Alurity and Transcendence”
   20: Plantinga: “Warranted Christian Belief” or “Faith and Rationality”
      or Habermas: “Theory of Communicative Action”