The course aims to study those western philosophers who have influenced the course of western society over the last 2500 years. We will examine their world views (their cosmologies, anthropologies, epistemologies, ethics, etc.) and will compare their views with the teachings of Scripture. Become an expert on some of these thinkers. They have much to teach us about the questions people in society are asking today.

The class will meet Mondays from 1-3 P.M. Regular on-time attendance is expected. If a student must miss a class, he/she should get the material missed from another student. Required text is Stumpf’s “Socrates to Sartre,” 7th edition (also on the reserve shelf). Copleston, Encyclopedia Britannica, etc. also are helpful for doing additional research.

Grades will be awarded on the basis of midterm and final exams and on the quality of participation in class discussions etc. More important than grades, however, let’s accept the challenge of learning to outthink the secular world because, as Christians, we have the mind of Christ and the Word of God to guide us as we develop answers to the questions which society is asking and as we seek to discern truth from falsehood.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Aug. 27: What is Philosophy? The Early Greeks to Socrates. Read Stumpf chs.1, 2.
   “ 22: Kant, Rousseau, Hegel, Schopenhauer Stumpf ch.12-14. MID TERM EXAM DUE.
Nov. 5: Peirce, James, Dewey, Foucault, Bergson, Whitehead. Read Stumpf ch.16.
   “ 19: Sartre, Camus, Stumpf, Ch.17-18; Modern Thought-Ch. 19 Searle; Rorty.
   “ 26: Philosophy and Science(Einstein, Planck); Aesthetics (Augustine, Balthazar)