

HomeSchool Christian Philosophy Course

August 2019 – May 2020

Monday and Thursday. 8:00-9:30 a.m. at NCBC 1095 Scott Rd. Bldg. “A” Canton Ga. 30115

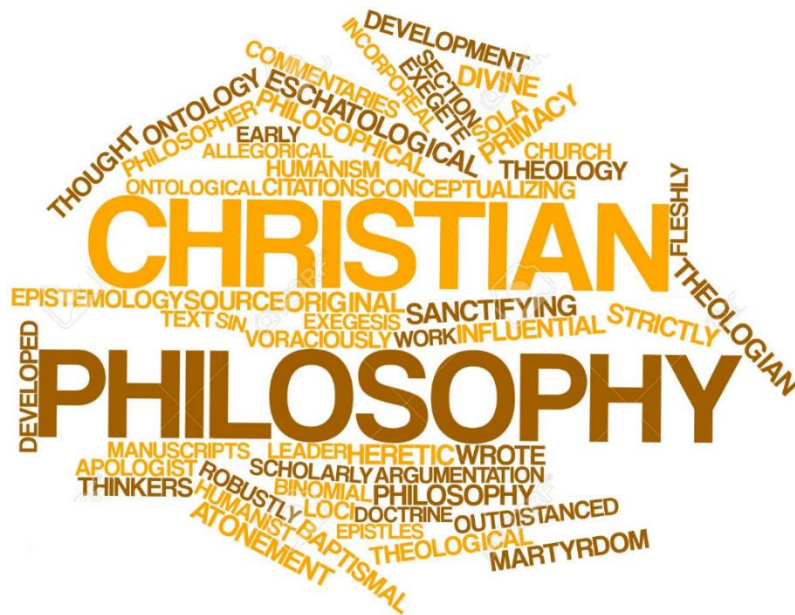
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Bryan Gilde is an Elder and Pastor at New Covenant Bible Church. He has been married for 16 years and has 2 children. He majored in Horticulture and minored in Business at Berry College, Received his Master of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and is currently writing his Doctoral Thesis at Reformed Theological Seminary.



Course Description

An introductory study of the relationship between Christian theology and philosophy, including an overview of the history of ideas and worldviews. Topics will include faith and reason, the existence of God, science, evil and the basis for knowledge and values. The first semester utilizes a philosophy textbook, while the second semester studies Frances Schaeffer and Tim Keller.

Student Outcomes

At the conclusion of the semester, the goals met will be:

1. To be acquainted with the basic concepts, methodologies, and resources pertaining to Christian philosophy;
2. To be better thinkers who can apply reason to faith, for the purpose of glorifying God;

3. To have more awareness of the history of western thought and the role theology has played in that history. The reading of Magee's book and the first semester's study are designed to contribute to this goal;
4. To have a better understanding of the thinking and philosophical orientation of modern popular culture in which the students must live and minister, so that their witness might be more effective and to-the-point in answering the questions of his culture;
5. To develop their understanding of and response to various worldviews that challenge the Christian worldview;
6. To develop critical thinking about the ideas and assumptions of others, as well as their own;
7. To assist students in understanding the importance of Revelation for the Christian epistemology. (All words that will make sense by the end of the course! Don't worry if this sentence scares you!);
8. To assist the student in building a philosophical/theological framework within which to analyze and respond to the unfolding trends of modern (or post-modern) culture, in order to bring the Truth claims of Christianity to the public square and instruct the Church of Jesus Christ;
9. To assist the student in integrating his/her Christian Faith with every aspect of life and all areas of study. The classroom discussion is intended to accomplish this.

Course Texts

Required texts:

Holy Bible in paper book format. ESV is preferred for purposes of uniformity in class, but not required.

Bryan Magee. *The Story of Philosophy*. (1st Semester) ISBN: 978-1465445643

Tim Keller. *The Reason for God*. (2nd Semester) ISBN: 978-1594483493

Francis Schaeffer *How Should We Then Live?* (2nd Semester) ISBN: 978-1581345360

We will also be watching and discussing parts of Francis Schaeffer's *How Should We Then Live?* five-hour mini-series. You do not need to purchase this item.

We will also watch the movie *Contact* and *Dead Poet's Society*, both rated PG-13.

Course Requirements and Grading

Assignment Parameters All course assignments must be completed and on time in order to pass the course. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period.

1. Reading and comprehension Quizzes for *The Story of Philosophy*. Read roughly one section before each class (sections are chapters which are not numbered): A quiz will be

given at the beginning of each class. A reading schedule will be followed. *Second semester Reading Summaries for Keller and Schaeffer.

2. Read assigned handouts and provide a written single-paragraph summary of the handout by the next class period. Other small assignments will be completed as “homework.” This will include memorizing assigned passages of Scripture per month, relevant to Christian Philosophy. *Second semester will entail a study of the entire book of Proverbs.
3. Three exams per semester, based on readings and class lectures.
4. One 6-8 page, double spaced, Book Review per semester. The book/topic will be at each student’s choosing, from a limited list of books. Examples include: arguing for the existence of God, a report on a historical figure from the readings, or what it means to think in categories. The student will give a five-minute presentation in class on their paper. A paper writing guideline will be handed out.
5. This class will be highly discussion-based and requires participation from the students. It will not be a class you will fall asleep in!

Grade Designations

A = Excellent. Assignments receiving this grade are of exceptional quality, demonstrating excellence in skill and scholarship. The work reflects achievement of all major and minor aspects of the assignment.

B = Above Average. Assignments receiving this grade are of superior quality, demonstrating careful attention to the overall scope. The work reflects achievement of all the major aspects and most of the minor aspects of the assignment.

C = Satisfactory. Assignments receiving this grade meet the requirements satisfactorily, demonstrating an average and acceptable quality. The work reflects achievement of many of the major and minor aspects of the assignment.

D = Low Passing. Assignments receiving this grade are below average. The work reflects little achievement of the major aspects of the assignment.

F = Failure. Assignments receiving this grade are unsatisfactory and unacceptable. The work reflects achievement of few, if any, major aspects of the assignment.

Course Evaluation

- a. Attendance and Participation 10%
- b. Reading Quizzes 30%*
- c. Homework 10%*
- d. Exams 30%
- e. Paper: 20%

Traditional Grading Scale: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 65-69=D; <65=F

* Second semester Reading Quizzes 10%, while Homework 30%

Additional Course Information

Attendance and Behavior

Learning is best done in community, you cannot teach yourself everything. Students are responsible for being in the classroom *on time*, reading any assigned materials and participating in class discussions. Presence and class participation will have a determining factor upon your final grade and reflects on your character—"be all here"! Any student missing more than two weeks of class (4 classes) will automatically fail the course, unless excused for health or family emergencies. Three tardies will count as one absence.

Do not eat in class.

Technology in class

Learning is actually best done with the writing muscles in your hand, as your brain forms each letter, word, and thought. Our brains do not learn best by typing lecture notes. We will have some hand-outs; but note-taking is a must. I give this explanation because most educators are, unfortunately, uncritically embracing technology. The very purpose of this class is to think critically about all that we do and say. We will certainly use computers, but just for papers and some homework.

Two Enemies to Avoid

Fascination: One is always more fascinated and interested in many things when one thing must be done. Keep your concentration on the task at hand.

Frustration: This is the feeling that one will never have sufficient time to finish. This will always be true, which is why we must live each moment 'as unto the Lord'.
