Dr. John Mahony jmahony@mabts.edu

Course Description:

Introduction to Philosophy is a study of the main contributors of the Western philosophical tradition. The major areas of epistemology, ontology, metaphysics, and ethics will be covered. Consequently, we shall focus on questions (for instance: Is knowledge possible? Does it come from reason or from experience? What is the ultimate substance of the world? Is it material or ideal? Are human actions free or determined? Does God exist? Why is there evil? Are moral norms relative or absolute?) as well as some specific concepts philosophers use to articulate their experience and the world we live in (being, substance, justice, *a priori*, *a posteriori*, contingent, necessary, empirical, etc.). In addition, the course will provide a preliminary orientation about the notion of philosophical argument, its various forms, and the ways arguments are analyzed.

Course Requirements:

- 1. Textbook. The textbook for the course is *The Love of Wisdom: A Christian Introduction to Philosophy*, by Steven Cowan & James Spiegel. Each student is expected to read the entire text. The schedule of daily reading assignments is listed on the attached Course Schedule.
- 2. Collateral Reading. The syllabus provides a general bibliography for the study of philosophy. Each student will read 200 pages from sources other than the textbook. A report of your reading will be submitted at the end of the semester (either last day of class for graduates or at the time of the final exam). Please give the author, title, publication information, and the pages read in your report.
- 3. Exams. A total of four tests will be given during the semester (three intra-semester exams and a final exam). These are listed on the course schedule. Grading for the course is:

Intra-Semester Exams:	60%
Final Exam:	20%
Reading	20%
Class Participation:	10%

The grading scale for all courses is found on pages 72-73 of the seminary catalog.

Dr. John Mahony jmahony@mabts.edu

4. Class Participation. The student is responsible for any material covered in class. It is imperative therefore that each student pays attention in class and seeks to make some contribution. Reading or working on assignments for other classes is not allowed. Each student is expected to take notes and pay attention during class. Use of computers is permitted. If the student, however, uses class time to check e-mail, send/receive messages, play games, etc, he/she will be dismissed from class and will be charged with an unexcused absence.

Course Goals:

- (1) To become familiar with major philosophical problems and the methods of dealing them,
- (2) To learn how to read and interpret philosophical texts (rightly considered as belonging to the category of the most complex intellectual products),
 - (3) To acquire an initial command of philosophical language,
- (4) To demonstrate the supremacy of the Christian worldview in the face of the challenges of unbelief.

Course Schedule

```
Session 1 (8/21): Introduction-Definition of the Discipline (Introduction)
Session 2 (8/26): Introduction-Approaches, Characteristics, & Value
Session 3 (8/27): Essential Features of all Worldviews
Session 4 (8/28): Logic & Truth (1)
Session 5 (9/2): Logic & Truth
Session 6 (9/3): Logic & Truth
Session 7 (9/4): Logic & Truth
Session 8 (9/9): Logic & Truth
Session 9 (9/10): Exam 1
Session 10 (9/11): Epistemology (2)
Session 11 (9/16): Epistemology
Session 12 (9/17): Epistemology
Session 13 (9/18): Epistemology- Epistemic Justification
Session 14 (9/25): Epistemology- Epistemic Justification
Session 15 (9/30): Philosophy of Science (3)
Session 16 (10/1): Philosophy of Science: Scientific Realism
Session 17 (10/2): Philosophy of Science: Scientific Nonrealism
Session 18 (10/7): Philosophy of Science: Laws of Nature
Session 19 (10/8): Exam 2
Session 20 (10/9): Metaphysics (4)
```

Dr. John Mahony jmahony@mabts.edu

Session 21 (10/14): Metaphysics: Obstacles
Session 22 (10/15): Metaphysics: Nature of the World
Session 23 (10/16): Metaphysics: Universals
Session 24 (10/21): Metaphysics: Particulars
Session 25 (10/22): Human Nature: Constitutional Nature (5)
Session 26 (10/23): Human Nature: Personal Identity
Session 27 (10/28): Human Nature: Human Freedom
Session 28 (10/29): Human Nature: Human Freedom
Session 29 (10/30): Human Nature: Life after Death
Session 30 (11/4): Exam 3
Session 31 (11/5): Philosophy of Religion (6): Existence of God
Session 32 (11/6): Philosophy of Religion: Existence of God
Session 33 (11/11): Philosophy of Religion: Nature of God
Session 34 (11/12): Philosophy of Religion: Problem of Evil
Session 35 (11/13): Philosophy of Religion: Problem of Evil
Session 36 (11/18): Philosophy of Religion: Nature of Religious Experience
Session 37 (11/19): Ethics: Theory & Practice (7)
Session 38 (11/20): Ethics: Ethical Relativism
Session 39 (12/2): Ethics: Ethical Theories
Session 40 (12/3): Political Philosophy: Issue of Law & Justice (8)
Session 41 (12/4): Political Philosophy: Distributive Justice
Session 42 (12/9): Political Philosophy: Biblical Reflections about the State
Session 43 (12/10): Aesthetics: Approach
Session 44 (12/11): Aesthetics: Value
Final Exam (12/16-17)

Certification:

I have read the syllabus for Introduction to Philosophy (PH 3901) and understand each of the requirements for the course.

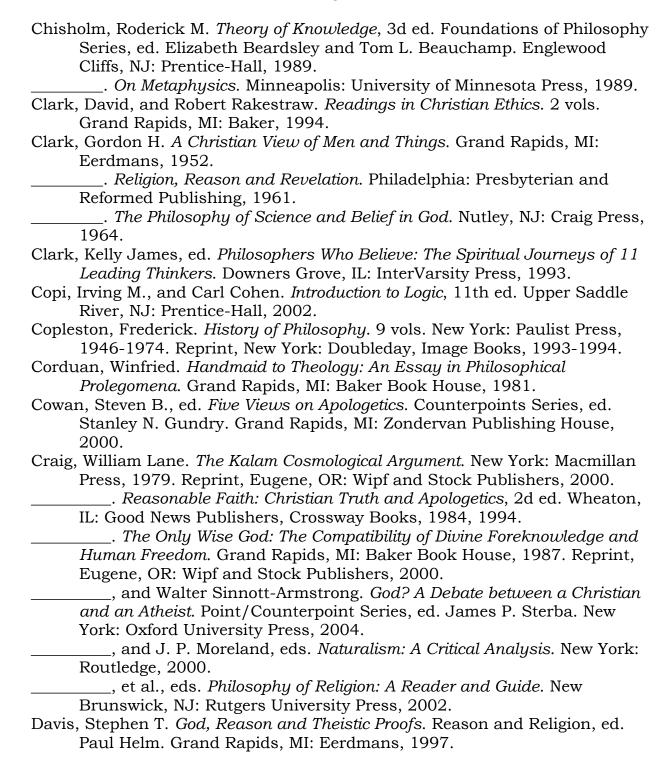
Dr. John Mahony jmahony@mabts.edu

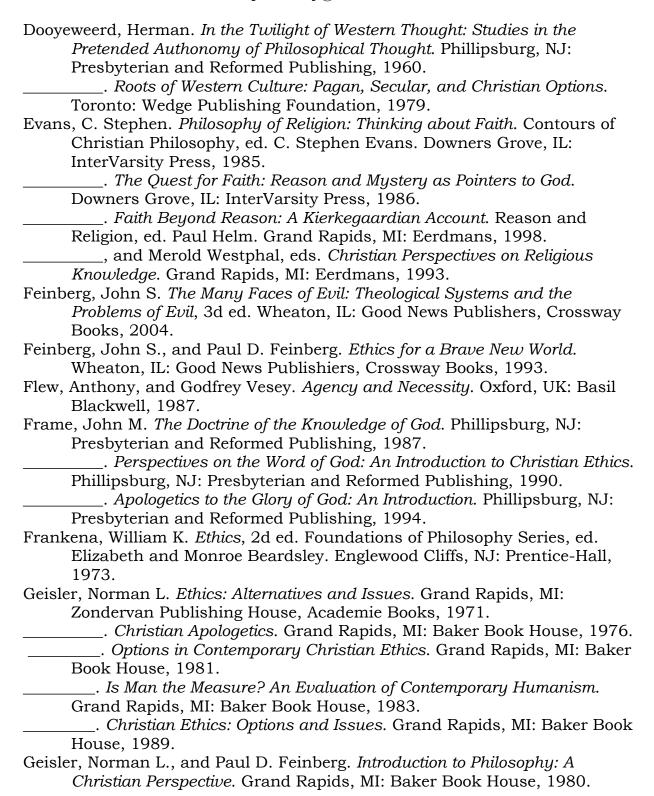
Course Bibliography

Allen, Diogenes. Philosophy for Understanding Theology. Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press, 1985. __. Christian Belief in a Postmodern World: The Full Wealth of Conviction. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989. Allen, Diogenes, and Eric O. Springsted, eds. Primary Readings in Philosophy for Understanding Theology. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992. Allen, Ronald B. The Majesty of Man: The Dignity of Being Human, 2d ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1984, 2000. Alston, William. Perceiving God: The Epistemology of Religious Experience. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1991. _. A Realist Conception of Truth. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1996. Aristotle. The Complete Works of Aristotle: The Revised Oxford Translation. 2 vols. Edited by Jonathan Barnes. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984. Audi, Robert. Belief, Justification, and Knowledge: An Introduction to Epistemology. The Wadsworth Basic Issues in Philosophy Series, ed. James Sterba. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing, 1988. . Epistemology: A Contemporary Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge, 2d ed. Routledge Contemporary Introductions to Philosophy. New York: Routledge, 2003. , ed. The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy, 2d ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999. Beckwith, Francis J. Do the Right Thing. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, 1996. Brody, Baruch A., ed. Readings in the Philosophy of Religion: An Analytic Approach, 2d ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1992. Brown, Colin. Philosophy & the Christian Faith: A Historical Sketch from the Middle Ages to the Present Day. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1968. _____. Miracles and the Critical Mind. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1984. . Christianity & Western Thought: A History of Philosophers, Ideas & Movements. Vol 1, From the Ancient World to the Age of the Enlightenment. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1990. Byrne, Peter. The Moral Interpretation of Religion. Reason and Religion, ed. Paul Helm. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998. Casserley, J. V. Langmead. The Christian in Philosophy. New York: Faber and

Faber, 1949. Reprint, Whitefish, MT: Kessinger Publishing, 2007.

Chesterton, G. K. Orthodoxy. New York: John Lane Company, 1908.



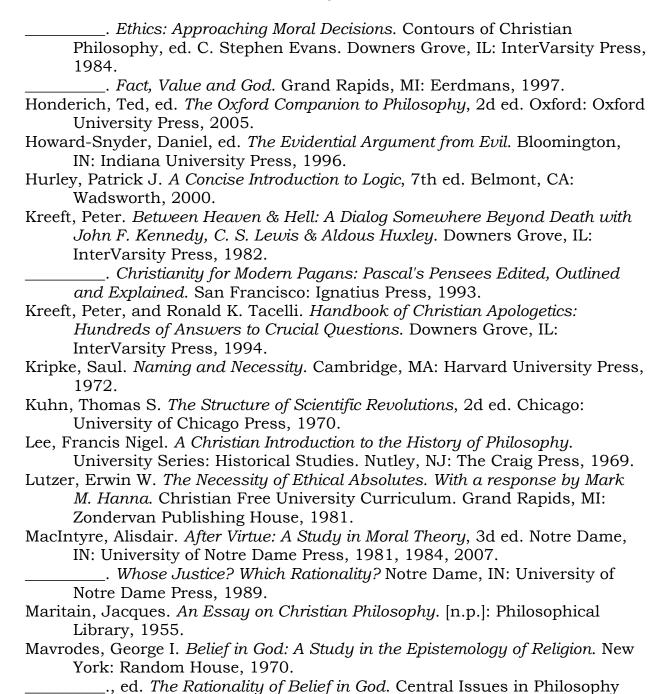


- Geisler, Norman L., and Ronald M. Brooks. *Come, Let Us Reason: An Introduction to Logical Thinking*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1990.
- Geivett, R. Douglas, and Brendan Sweetman, eds. *Contemporary Perspectives on Religious Epistemology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Gilson, Etienne. *The Spirit of Medieval Philosophy: Gifford Lectures 1931-1932*.

 Translated by A. H. C. Downes. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1936. Reprint, Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1991.

 ______. *Christianity and Philosophy*. New York: Sheed & Ward, 1939.
- Green, Ronald M. Religion and Moral Reason: A New Method for Comparative Study. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Grossmann, Reinhardt. *The Existence of the World: An Introduction to Ontology*. New York: Routledge, 1992.
- Hackett, Stuart C. *The Resurrection of Theism: Prolegomena to Christian Theology*, 2d ed. Twin Brooks Series. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1957, 1982.
- ______. Oriental Philosophy: A Westerner's Guide to Eastern Thought. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1979.
- Hart, Hendrik. *Understanding Our World: An Integral Ontology*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1984.
- Hasker, William. *Metaphysics: Constructing a World View*. Contours of Christian Philosophy, ed. C. Stephen Evans. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1983.
- Helm, Paul. *Faith and Understanding*. Reason and Religion, ed. Paul Helm. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1997.
- Henry, Carl F. H. *The Drift of Western Thought: The W. B. Riley Memorial Lectures*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1951.
- Hodgson, Leonard. *Toward a Christian Philosophy*. London: Nisbet, 1946. Reprint, Pomona Press, 2007.
- _____. For Faith and Freedom: The Gifford Lectures 1955-1957. London: SCM Press, 1968.
- Holmes, Arthur F. Christian Philosophy in the Twentieth Century: An Essay in Philosophical Methodology. Nutley, NJ: The Craig Press, 1969.
- ______. Faith Seeks Understanding: A Christian Approach to Knowledge.
 Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1971.
- ______. *Philosophy: A Christian Perspective*, 2d ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1975.
- _____. *All Truth Is God's Truth.* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1977. Reprint, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1983.

Dr. John Mahony jmahony@mabts.edu

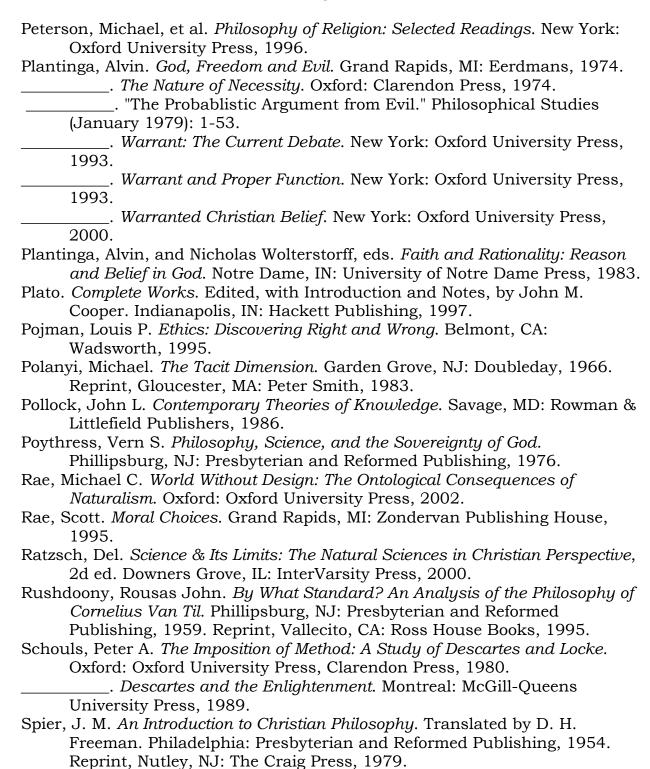


Series. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1970.

1984.

Mayers, Ronald B. Both/And: A Balanced Apologetic. Chicago: Moody Press,

- McGrath, Alister E. *Intellectuals Don't Need God & Other Modern Myths: Building Bridges to Faith through Apologetics*. Grand Rapids, MI:
 Zondervan Publishing House, 1993.
- McIntire, C. T., ed. Legacy of Herman Dooyeweerd: Reflections on Critical Philosophy in the Christian Tradition. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1986.
- Meilaender, Gilbert. Faith and Faithfulness: Basic Themes in Christian Ethics. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1991.
- ______. *The Theory and Practice of Virtue*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1981.
- Moreland, J. P. Scaling the Secular City: A Defense of Christianity. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1987.
- ______. Christianity and the Nature of Science: A Philosophical Investigation.
 Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989.
- ______. *Universals*. Quebec: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001.
- Moreland, J. P., and Kai Nielsen. *Does God Exist? The Great Debate*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990.
- Moreland, J. P., and Scott B. Rae. *Body & Soul: Human Nature & the Crisis in Ethics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Moreland, J. P., and William Lane Craig. *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
- Morris, Thomas V. *Our Idea of God: An Introduction to Philosophical Theology*. Contours of Christian Philosophy, ed. C. Stephen Evans. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1991.
- ______. *Making Sense of It All: Pascal and the Meaning of Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1992.
- _______., ed. *God and the Philosophers*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994.
- Nash, Ronald H. *The Concept of God: An Exploration of Contemporary Difficulties with the Attributes of God.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, Academie Books, 1983.
- ______. *Faith and Reason: Searching for a Rational Faith.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, Academie Books, 1988.
- Nedoncelle, Maurice. *Is There a Christian Philosophy?* Translated by Illtyd Trethowan. The Twentieth Century Encyclopedia of Catholicism. New York: Hawthorn Books, 1960.
- Packer, J. I., and Thomas Howard. *Christianity: The True Humanism.* Waco, TX: Word Books, 1985.
- Peterson, Michael L. *Philosophy of Education: Issues and Options*. Contours of Christian Philosophy, ed. C. Stephen Evans. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1986.



- Sproul, R. C., John Gerstner, and Arthur Lindsley. *Classical Apologetics: A Rational Defense of the Christian Faith and a Critique of Presuppositional Apologetics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, Academie Books, 1984.
- Swinburne, Richard. *The Evolution of the Soul.* Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1986. ______. *The Existence of God.* Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1979.
- Temple, William. *Nature, Man and God. Gifford Lectures 1932-1934*. London: Macmillan, 1934.
- Trueblood, David Elton. *Philosophy of Religion*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1957.
- Van Til, Cornelius. *The Defense of the Faith*, 3d ed. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1955, 1963, 1967.
- ______. *A Christian Theory of Knowledge*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1969.
- ______. Christian Apologetics, 2d ed. Edited, with an introduction, by William Edgar. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1976, 2003.
- Wiker, Benjamin. *Moral Darwinism: How We Became Hedonists*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002.
- Wilkens, Steve, and Alan G. Padgett. *Christianity & Western Thought: A History of Philosophers, Ideas & Movements*. Vol 2, Faith & Reason in the 19th Century. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Wogaman, J. Philip. *Christian Ethics: A Historical Introduction*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993.
- Wolfe, David L. *Epistemology: The Justification of Belief.* Contours of Christian Philosophy, ed. C. Stephen Evans. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1982.
- Wolters, Albert M. *Our Place in the Philosophical Tradition*. Toronto: Institute for Christian Studies, 1975.
- Wolterstorff, Nicholas. *Until Justice and Peace Embrace: The Kuyper Lectures for* 1981 Delivered at the Free University of Amsterdam. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1983.
- ______. Reason Within the Bounds of Religion, 2d ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1984.
- Wood, W. Jay. *Epistemology: Becoming Intellectually Virtuous*. Contours of Christian Philosophy, ed. C. Stephen Evans. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.
- Yandell, Keith E. *Christianity and Philosophy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1984.

