

Philosophical Theology 1 (TH5)

*Fridays, 1-3 PM, August 15-October 3, 2014

*Required Text: The Love of Wisdom: A Christian Introduction to Philosophy, Steven B. Cowan & James S. Siegel - \$365 pesos

Ross Arnold, Summer 2014
Lakeside institute of Theology



Policies and Requirements

1. Classes are free, but all students seeking a certificate or degree must purchase books (paper, not electronic), which will be made available by the Institute.
2. Students in certificate or degree tracks may miss no more than one class per course, without arrangements made in advance with the teacher to make up missed work (at the discretion of the teacher).
3. Students in certificate or degree tracks will be required to take a pass/fail final exam in each course, based on study guidelines provided by the teacher.
4. Students in certificate or degree tracks must make a passing grade (based on "pass/fail") in each course in order to receive credit towards a certificate or degree.
5. Candidates for degrees (Master of Theology and Master of Theology & Ministry) must be approved by the Institute Director before final admission into a degree program.

Policies and Requirements for making up classes, or taking classes online (as of April 3, 2014):

- I. All make-up classes must be completed before the beginning of the following term, unless you make special arrangements with the professor.
- II. All classes made up online must be reported via email to rda@rossarnold.net, as follows:
 - A. Each class must be reported in a separate email as soon after watching as possible.
 - B. Each email must contain the following information:
 1. Course title and/or code (NT4, OT3, TH2, etc.).
 2. The date of the original lecture you missed.
 3. The title of the lecture.
 4. A clear statement that you watched all of the lecture video, reviewed the materials and completed the required readings.
- III. Courses taken entirely online require prior approval, and apply only to audit or Certificate (not degree) requirements.

Philosophical Theology 1 (TH5)

Aug. 15 – Intro to Philosophical Theology; Logic

Aug. 22 – Epistemology: How Do We Know?

Aug. 29 – Metaphysics: What is Real?

Sept. 5 – **No Class**

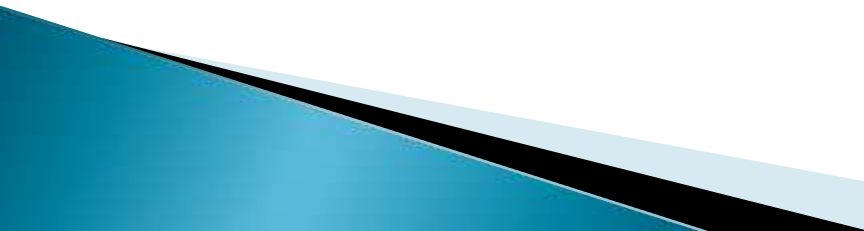
Sept. 12 – Philosophy of Religion; Philosophy of
Science

Sept. 19 – Human Nature; Philosophy of
Politics

Sept. 26 – Ethics: What is Right?; Aesthetics:
What is Beautiful?

October 3 – Conclusion; Final Exam

Why does philosophy have such negative connotations to many people?

- People wrongly believe you have to be super intelligent to do philosophy.
 - Many people have become intellectually lazy, and philosophy requires us to think.
 - Many students have no introduction to philosophy before college – which further encourages the idea that it is an advanced topic for the academically elite.
 - People do not think it is practical.
 - People don't know what it really is, or how it can help them.
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What is philosophy? (and why is it hard to define)

- Literally, it is *a love of wisdom* – *phileo* is Greek for “love,” *sophos* means “wisdom.”
- Philosophy is the critical examination of our foundational beliefs concerning the nature of reality, knowledge and truth; and our moral and social values.
- Broadly speaking, philosophy is the means and process by which we examine our lives and the meaning in our lives.
- **Philosophy is the attempt to think rationally and critically about life’s most important questions in order to obtain knowledge and wisdom about them.**

Why is philosophy important?

- Ideas matter. The ideas one believes largely determine the kind of person one becomes.
- We all have a worldview – what we believe about the world and our place in it. Philosophy, rightly done, can give us a better worldview.
- Philosophy examines assumptions, asks questions, seeks to clarify and analyze concepts, and seeks to organize facts into a rational system – for ALL disciplines.
- Philosophy gives us a clearer understanding of life and what is important in life by teaching us to examine our core beliefs and ideas.
- Philosophy makes us more human. Socrates said “An unexamined life is not worth living” – which meant that being able to examine our lives, to analyze and think critically, is necessarily at the core of what it means to be human.

Why is Christian philosophy *especially* important?

- Philosophy has always played a crucial role in the nurture of believers, proclamation of a Christian worldview, and defense of the faith.
 - Yet R.C. Sproul has called this the most anti-intellectual period in the history of the Church.
 - Charles Malik (former Secretary of the UN) warns that the greatest danger facing modern evangelicalism is a lack of cultivation of the mind, especially as it relates to philosophy.
 - Philosophy asks critical questions about *other* fields of study, so by its nature philosophy is the most important discipline for the integration of Christian theology with other fields of study.
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Why is Christian philosophy *especially* important?

1. Philosophy is an aid in the task of **apologetics** –giving a reasoned defense of Christian beliefs in light of objections raised against it.
2. Philosophy aids in **polemics** – the task of critically analyzing and refuting alternative, non-Christian worldviews.
3. Philosophy is a **central expression of the image of God in us** – the ability to reason abstractly and critically, especially in areas of ethical and religious issues.
4. Philosophy permeates and supports **systematic theology**.
5. Philosophy encourages and facilitates the **spiritual discipline of study** (loving the Lord with our *minds*).
6. Philosophy enhances the **confidence and boldness** of the Christian community in general.
7. Philosophy is essential to the task of **integration** between our theological beliefs and other coherent, rational and intellectual perspectives.

Why is Christian philosophy *especially* important?

“To be ignorant and simple now – not to be able to meet the enemies on their own ground – would be to throw down our weapons, and to betray our uneducated brethren who have, under God, no defense but us against the intellectual attacks of the heathen. Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason than because bad philosophy needs to be answered.”

C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*



Major historical divisions of Western philosophy

- Ancient philosophy (600 BC-AD 400) – the beginnings of Western philosophy with classical Greek and Roman philosophers looking at the universe in wonder and pondering its origin & nature. Notably Socrates, Plato, Aristotle.
- Medieval philosophy (400-1400 AD) –the Church was dominant in the West and philosophy expressed a Christian understanding of the world. Notably Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Anselm, Duns Scotus, William of Occam.
- Renaissance and into modern era (1500-1900 AD) – knowledge exploded; science and reason became supreme methods of discovery and knowledge. Notably Pascal, Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Kierkegaard.
- Contemporary philosophy (1901 thru today) – most diverse, with many different philosophical movements and perspectives. Notably James, Wittgenstein, Heidegger, Sartre, Camus, Searle and Plantinga.

The divisions of philosophy

- Metaphysics – the philosophical study of reality.
 - ❖ The origins and purpose of reality; nature of reality and existence; existence and nature of God and his relationship to the rest of reality; nature of humanity, especially, what does it mean to be human?
- Epistemology – philosophical study of knowledge and truth claims.
 - ❖ What can we know; how can we know it; how do we obtain knowledge; how do we verify it, what is truth, how do we justify truth claims or beliefs.
- Axiology, (Values Theory)– examination of values.
 - ❖ Good versus bad; what is right; what is beauty; what is the purpose of art.
- Miscellaneous “2nd Order” – philosophy of science, of politics; of religion; of history; of law; etc.

The principles of Formal Logic

- The **Laws of Logic** are a set of tools that help us think more clearly. If these laws (*or first principles*) of logic are not true, then nothing else can make sense. They are (and must be) inherently self-evident and undeniable, requiring no further proof beyond themselves.
- **1st Law – The Law of Identity, $P = P$**
 - Something is what it is. Or, All true propositions are true, and all false propositions are false.
- **2nd Law – The Law of Non-Contradiction, $\neg (P \wedge \neg P)$**
 - Something cannot both be and not be at the same time and in the same respect. Or, Something cannot be both true and false at the same time and in the same respect.
- **3rd Law – The Law of the Excluded Middle, $P \vee \neg P$**
 - Something either is or it is not. Or, A proposition is either true or false, it cannot be both.

The principles of Formal Logic

- Logic employs established rules for correct reasoning.
- In reasoning, an **argument** is a group of reasons which together achieve a conclusion.
- An argument consists of a group of **propositions** – some are **premises** which establish the terms of the argument, in order to try to prove a final proposition called a **conclusion**.
- The **inference** is the evident relationship between the premises and the conclusion
 - All men are mortal.
 - Socrates is a man.
 - Therefore, Socrates is mortal.
- An argument without a clear inference, even if it has true premises and a conclusion, is called a **non sequitur** – “it does not follow.”
 - John Adams was the second president of the United States.
 - The square root of 81 is 9.
 - Therefore, I love pizza.