

The John Leland Center for Theological Studies
Philosophy for Theology
Fall 2011

Professor: Jeffrey G. Willetts, PhD

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Time: Mondays, 8:10 pm

Location: Main Campus

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the main themes and figures in the history of western philosophy that have had a significant influence on the practice of theology.

Teaching Method: Lecture and Discussion

Required Texts: Allen, Diogenes, *Philosophy for Understanding Theology: An Introduction*, John Knox Press, 1985; Caputo, John, *Philosophy and Theology*, Abingdon Press, 2006

Course Requirements:

Reading Assignments

Class Attendance

Class Discussion

Examinations

Evaluation: Evaluations for this course will be made on the basis of two take-home exams administered at the middle and end of the term and class participation.

Topics of Discussion:

- 1) Introduction to Philosophy
- 2) Plato and Platonic Spirituality 1, 2 & 3
- 3) Aristotle and His Categories 4 & 5
- 4) Christianity & Greek Thought
- 5) The Realist/Nominalist Debate 6 & 7
- 6) Welcome to Modernity! 8
- 7) Kant and the Limits of Reason 9
- 8) Hegel and the Importance of History 10
- 9) Process Philosophy and Theology w/ suppliments
- 10) Existentialism 11 w/ supplements
- 11) Analytic Philosophy & Wittgenstein 11 w/ supplements
- 12) Hermeneutics and the Postmodern World 11 w/ supplements