

**The John Leland Center for Theological Studies**  
**TP2501 - Philosophy for Theology**  
**Fall 2010**

**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**