

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SEMINARY**  
2075 EAST MADISON AVENUE • EL CAJON • CALIFORNIA 92019-1108

**PH-101 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**

SPRING TRIMESTER, MODULE 4  
MARCH 8 – APRIL 26, 2017  
ONLINE & WEDNESDAY 7:00PM – 10:00PM

**PROFESSOR**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

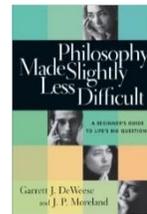
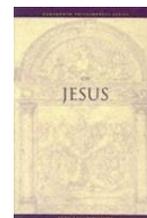
An analysis of the foundations of philosophical thought. The emphasis will be on the main branches of philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics in light of Christian thought and the life of Jesus Christ. *3Units.*

**PROFESSOR'S COMMENT**

Worldview analysis is an important skill for Christians. In this class you will learn to identify key components to any worldview, how to analyze these components, and discover what the Christian faith holds for each.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

1. *The Holy Bible*. A translation based on formal equivalence, such as the *New King James Version* or the *New American Standard Bible*, is recommended for study.
2. Groothuis, Douglas. *On Jesus*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2003. 97 pages. ISBN-13: **978-0-534-58394-1** or ISBN-10: **0-534-58394-6**. List Price: \$15.95.
3. DeWeese, Garrett J. and J.P. Moreland. *Philosophy Made Slightly Less Difficult: A beginners guide to life's big questions*. Dowers Grove, IL: IVP Press, 2005. 167 pages. ISBN-10: 0-8308-2766-8 or ISBN-13: 978-0-8308-2766-4. List Price: \$14.80.



**Please Note:** Textbooks can be purchased through MBS Direct, the SCS Online Bookstore, available at <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/socalsem.htm>, or elsewhere. However, it is your responsibility to order all of the required textbooks at least one month prior to the start of class or be willing to pay for expedited shipping.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS**

1. Kenny, Anthony. *An Illustrated Brief History of Western Philosophy*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2006. 404 pages. ISBN-13: 978-1-4051-4180-2. List Price: \$32.95.
2. Magill, Frank N. *Masterpieces of World Philosophy*. New York, New York: Harper Collins, 1990. 684 pages. ISBN: 0-06-270051-0. List Price: \$48.99.

3. DeWeese, Garrett J. *Doing Philosophy as a Christian*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2011. 352 pages. ISBN: 978-08308-2811-1. List Price: \$23.61.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student who successfully completes this course will be able to . . .	PROGRAM OBJECTIVES*	SCS INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES*	COURSE REQUIREMENT (CR #)
1. Understand what philosophy is and its relation to the Christian life as well as the life of Jesus Christ.	3	3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4
2. Understand central elements of metaphysics including identity and essences.	1, 3	3, 4, 7	1, 2, 3, 5
3. Understand the basics of epistemology including what knowledge is and how to confront skepticism.	1, 3	1, 3, 4, 8	1, 2, 5
4. Understand metaethics and normative ethics.	1, 3	3, 4, 7	1, 2, 3, 5
5. Understand central issues of philosophy of mind including substance dualism, objections to substance dualism, and free will vs. determinism.	1, 3	3, 4, 7	1, 2, 3, 5
6. Understand how a Christian should think about science, scientism, and the integration of science and theology.	2, 3, 7	3, 4, 7	1, 2, 3, 5

\* The program and institutional objectives are published in the Academic Catalog.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Many if not all written assignments will be turned in through Blackboard and will be processed through software to check for plagiarism.

1. Each student will write 3 papers of 4-5 pages each (100 points each for a total of 300 points). Each paper will be submitted through Blackboard. Each student will submit the first paper and select two of the remaining three to complete by the due date. Note: all papers must conform to Turabian formatting.
  - a. Paper 1 (due at end of Session 2): write a 4-5 page paper addressing the following: what philosophy is, different views on the intersection of faith and philosophy, and what a proper (biblical) view of philosophy is.
  - b. Paper 2 (due at the end of Session 4): write a 4-5 page paper discussing Jesus' use of argument (On Jesus, Chp. 3). Explain what kind of arguments Jesus uses, how they are effective, (briefly) how Christians can benefit from utilizing quality arguments in proclaiming the Gospel and how this is consistent with a quality view of philosophy.

- c. Paper 3 (due at the end of Session 6): write a 4-5 page paper defining truth. Be sure to show how your view of truth is consistent with Scripture and note what truth means (and does not mean) in John 14:6; 17:17; 18:38.
2. All reading is required in full each week. Each student will provide an accurate account of the percentage of reading accomplished each week on the quizzes/final exam. 150 points.
3. Students will have weekly quizzes covering the reading and class lecture for the first six sessions. Each quiz is worth 50 points (total of 300 points). Each quiz will be an open book quiz and students will have one opportunity to take the quiz. Quizzes will not be timed. Additionally, for essay questions (this is very important), copy and paste the question into a word processor (e.g., Microsoft Word or its equivalent). After providing your answer in the word processor, copy and paste the answer back into the quiz/exam. If you do it another way, you will have many headaches.
4. The final exam will be given during the final session (online just like the quizzes). It would be prudent if for students to prepare for the exam **each week**. If you wait until the final week to begin studying for the exam, quality results will be much harder to obtain. Be wise, prepare weekly! While the final exam will be open book too but the exam will be timed (and automatically close at a set time). The final exam will be cumulative (covering the entire course lecture). One profitable way of preparing is through the weekly quiz preparation. Additionally, for essay questions (this is very important), copy and paste the question into a word processor (e.g., Microsoft Word or its equivalent). After providing your answer in the word processor, copy and paste the answer back into the quiz/exam. If you do it another way, you will have many headaches.
5. Each student is expected to participate in the weekly discussion board questions (25 points per session for the six sessions totaling 150 points). Full points are earned by doing the following: 1) providing a quality initial posting to the discussion questions and 2) providing thoughtful replies to at least two other student postings for each discussion board. Initial postings are due by midnight Sunday of each session. All other assignments (and secondary postings) are due by midnight Tuesday evening of each session (sessions run from Wednesday to Tuesday evenings each week). **NOTE:** If there are two discussion board postings for a session, then the student is expected to post two initial responses (one for each discussion board for that session) and also two replies for each discussion board with other students (for a total of, at least, four quality replies). Merely acknowledging something as “good” or a “nice insight” is insufficient. To count, replies to other students need to be insightful, helpful, and (may) also include asking important questions to the student to spur further dialogue (however, you must also answer your own question to the best of your ability). Students are expected to reply to questions posed to them on discussion board.

**SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION**

Read the table like this, “At Session \_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, the scheduled session content is \_\_\_\_\_, and the assignments *due at the end of the week* are \_\_\_\_\_.”

SESSION	DATE	SESSION CONTENT	ASSIGNMENT DUE
1	Mar 8-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Introduction to Philosophy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is philosophy?</li> <li>○ Jesus and philosophy</li> <li>○ Logic</li> <li>○ Philosophy and theology</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> DeWeese/Moreland chapter 1.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> Groothuis chapters 1, 3.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Blackboard discussions</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Quiz 1</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Begin Paper 1</b></li> </ul>
2	Mar 15-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Metaphysics: What Is Real?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identity</li> <li>○ Substances, essences, and natures</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Read</b> DeWeese/Moreland chapter 2.</li> <li>• <b>Read</b> Groothuis chapter 4.</li> <li>• Blackboard discussions</li> <li>• Quiz 2</li> <li>• Submit Paper 1</li> </ul>
3	Mar 22-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Epistemology: How Do I Know?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kinds of knowledge</li> <li>○ Knowledge</li> <li>○ Skepticism</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> DeWeese/Moreland chapter 3.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> Groothuis chapter 5.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Blackboard discussions</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Quiz 3</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Begin Paper 2</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Note: It’s Time To Order All Textbooks For Next Module!</b></li> </ul>
4	Mar 29-April 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ethics: How Should I Live?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Metaethics</li> <li>○ Normative Ethics</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> DeWeese/Moreland chapter 4.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> Groothuis chapters 6-7.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Blackboard discussions</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Quiz 4</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Submit Paper 2.</b></li> </ul>
5	April 5-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Philosophical Anthropology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Philosophy of Mind</li> <li>○ Substance Dualism</li> <li>○ Free will and determinism</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> DeWeese/Moreland chapter 5.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> Groothuis chapter 4</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Blackboard discussions</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Quiz 5</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Begin Paper 3</b></li> </ul>
	April 12-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Spring Break</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No assignments</b></li> </ul>

6	April 19-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Philosophy of Science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scientism</li> <li>○ Theistic science and methodological naturalism</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> DeWeese/Moreland chapter 6.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> Groothuis chapter 6</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Blackboard discussions</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Quiz 6</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Submit Paper 3</b></li> </ul>
7	April 26- May 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Worldview Struggles</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Philosophy and the Gospel</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> DeWeese/Moreland chapter 7.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> Groothuis chapter 2</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Final Exam</b></li> </ul>

**STUDENT EVALUATION**

Discussion Board.....	150 pts, 15%
Written papers.....	300 pts, 30%
Quizzes.....	300 pts, 30%
Reading.....	100 pts, 10%
<u>Final Exam.....</u>	<u>150 pts, 15%</u>
	1000 pts, 100%

**GRADE SCALE**

The final course grades are not given out until at least three weeks after the course is finished. A student will not be given their final grade unless the course has been paid for in full.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent</b>
A	= 95–100%	C	= 77–79%
A-	= 92–94%	C-	= 74–76%
B+	= 89–91%	D+	= 72–73%
B	= 86–88%	D	= 70–71%
B-	= 83–85%	D-	= 68–69%
C+	= 80–82%	F	= Below 68%

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

For the Modular Courses (21 lecture hours/ 7 weeks), more than 10 minutes missing from class is considered a Tardy, and more than 20 minutes missing from class is counted as an Absence. Two tardies = one absence. You are permitted one absence for a 7-week course. Two absences results in being dropped from the course.

General School Policy: A student who takes an absence from class will receive a penalty resulting in an immediate reduction of their final grade by 7 percent in a modular class and

3.5 percent in a trimester class. However, the student will have the ability to make up between 0 percent and all of the deduction at the professor's discretion.

### ***LATE COURSE WORK POLICY***

Late papers, quizzes, and the final exam are subject to 10% grade reduction for each 1-2 days late.

### ***ACADEMIC INTEGRITY***

Southern California Seminary expects its students to conduct themselves honestly in their personal and academic lives. If evidence arises of academic dishonesty, the dean of the program will investigate the matter and take appropriate action.

### **Offenses Against Academic Integrity**

***Cheating.*** Cheating is never tolerated at SCS.

***Plagiarism.*** Plagiarism can occur intentionally or inadvertently. Intentional acts of plagiarism involve knowingly and willingly treating another person's work as one's own original work. It includes copying or imitating the words, sentences, outlines, or ideas of another person. Inadvertent plagiarism can occur when a student fails to properly cite original sources. Plagiarism will not be tolerated at SCS. Therefore, all offenses of plagiarism will be reported to the dean of the program in which the offense occurred and an investigation will be made to determine what disciplinary action should be taken.

Aiding or Conspiring in the Commission of Plagiarism. Helping someone commit plagiarism is viewed as equally dishonest as plagiarism, for all participating parties.

***Multiple Submissions.*** This offense occurs when a student submits a paper that was written for another course as if it were an original paper satisfying the requirements of the present course. Attempting to submit such work is deceptive and a form of academic dishonesty. On the occasion that a student's previous work has some potential for expansion, improvement, or to serve as a starting point for another line of thought (as with Doctrinal Summary/Synopsis) the student will be advised by the professor to what extent a particular previous work may be permitted. The professor may require that a copy of the previous work be submitted with the later work.

### ***LIBRARY***

The SDCC/SCS Library website is your gateway to library resources and information. For a complete description of the library's holdings, services, staff and access to its online collections, go to: <http://sdcc.edu/library>.

### **Course Bibliography**

Any book listed in the back of your textbook is suitable, as is any commentary or other resource in the college / seminary library. If you want to use a book from your own library that is not on the

approved list (in the back of your textbook or in the college / seminary library), please check with your instructor before using it.

Kenny, Anthony. *An Illustrated Brief History of Western Philosophy*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2006.

Magill, Frank N., ed. *Masterpieces of World Philosophy*. NY, NY: HarperCollins, 1990.