Dr. Fairbairn’s Contact Information:
   Email: dfairbairn@gordonconwell.edu
   Phone: (704) 940-5842

Dr. Fairbairn’s assistant is Vyacheslav Lytvynenko (“Dr. Slavik”):
   Email: vlytvynenko@gordonconwell.edu

Schedule: The assignments for this course will extend throughout the spring semester, from Jan 19 through May 7. The class meetings will be on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 to 9:30 PM, Jan. 19-Mar. 29 (no class on Feb. 23).

Office Hours: I will be in the office and available for drop-in meetings on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. I will be in the office all day on Wednesdays, but most Wednesdays will be filled with meetings. I can also be available by appointment at other times convenient to students.

Catalog Course Description: An examination of the changing relations between Christian thought and Western philosophy up to the time of Kant in the late 1700s. This course seeks to help students understand Christian thought more fully and express it more cogently in our world today.

Relation to Curriculum: This course can serve as a Christian Thought elective for students in the M.Div. and M.A.C.T. programs, or as a general elective for other students.

Course Purpose: This course is designed to give students a working knowledge of the major themes and issues of classical Western philosophy, as well as experience in analyzing and assessing the relation between these issues and the articulation of Christian thought.

Course Objectives: In keeping with Gordon-Conwell’s mission statement, the professor intends that upon completing this course, students will:

1. Recognize the close relation between all expressions of Christian thought and the philosophical world in which those expressions emerge (related to articles 1 and 2 of the mission statement).

2. Understand the major shifts in philosophical thought in the Christian West up to the time of Kant and the way these affect the articulation of Christian truth (related to articles 2 and 5).

3. Appreciate the need to consider the thought world of one’s own time in expressing Christian truth (related to article 1).
4. Re-consider the way Christian truth should be expressed (theology) and defended (apologetics) in light of both past and present philosophical mindsets (related to articles 1, 5, and 6).

**Course Requirements:** Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments. The successful completion of these assignments will require each student to spend at least 135 hours devoted to coursework, both in class and outside of class. The following chart indicates how these hours are distributed across the various course assignments. More specific descriptions of the assignments are given later in this syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignment</th>
<th>Expected Time Commitment</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading the required readings</td>
<td>65 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures and class discussions</td>
<td>30 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two research papers</td>
<td>40 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Textbooks and Materials:**


**Recommended Textbooks:**

The following are books from which you are to read selections. They are on reserve in the library, and if you wish, you may read the assigned portions there, rather than purchasing the books.


Course Assignments:

1. **Reading (20 points):** You must complete 2000 pages of reading. Of this total, ~1600 pages will come from the readings assigned for the class discussions, and the remainder will come during the research for the two papers. The course schedule at the end of the syllabus shows which readings you must complete prior to (or at least during) each section of the course. This assignment will help prepare you to achieve all four course objectives.

By Tuesday, May 3, you must turn in a complete list (including bibliographical information and page numbers for each work) of the reading you have done to fulfill this requirement.

2. **Research Papers (40 points each; 80 points total):** You must write two 8-10 page research papers. The papers are due by Tuesday, April 12, and Tuesday, May 3.

   **Selection of topics:** You have considerable freedom in choosing your paper topics, with the restriction that the first must deal with some philosophical issue from the first Christian millennium and its significance for us today, and the second must deal with some philosophical issue from the second Christian millennium and its significance for us today. You do not need my approval for your choice of topic, but you are more than welcome to confer with me as you choose and narrow the topic.

   **The task of research:** You should consult the document “Writing Theological Papers” available on the Sakai site in order to understand my expectations regarding research papers. If you need additional help on your papers, you may want to consult personnel at the Charlotte writing center. Remember, however, that an important part of writing a research paper is the sometimes difficult task of locating and selecting the sources you want to use. This will probably involve several hours of hard work in an archive or library. Do not expect others to do this work for you; this is part of your assignment.

   **Completed papers** should be typed and in correct form (as indicated below.), footnoted where appropriate, with a bibliography of all sources used for the study. If you have not had much experience in writing research papers, you should consult Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013).

   **Grading the papers:** Your research papers will be evaluated on the basis of five primary criteria:
   1) The choice of an appropriately narrow topic and the posing of an appropriate question for the paper to answer (10 points)
   2) The depth of the research in both primary and secondary materials (10 points)
   3) The quality of the analysis/argument you present (10 points)
4) The organization and clarity of your writing (5 points)
5) The mechanical correctness and elegance of your writing (5 points)

Attention to these matters will not only help you on this paper assignment, but it will also aid you in developing the analytical and communication skills you need for the ministry to which God has called you.

**Grading:** The point values listed above mean that the total number of points available for the course is 100. Final letter grades will be applied with cutoffs as follows: A 95, A- 90, B+ 87, B 83, B- 80, C+ 77, C 73, C- 70, D+ 67, D 63, D- 60, F below 60. A grade of A+ will be given very rarely, when the student’s work is truly exceptional. (At Gordon-Conwell, a grade of A+ and a grade of A are both counted the same way in calculating the student’s GPA. Thus, a GPA above 4.0 is not possible.)

**Late work:** All late work will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade per week beyond the due date, unless arrangements are made ahead of time. Extenuating circumstances will be considered as appropriate. Work turned in after May 7 (the end of the spring semester) will normally require that an extension be approved by the Seminary. If you anticipate a problem, contact me as soon as possible.

**Attendance Policy:** Class attendance and participation are a central part of this course. If you must miss a class period, you should notify me in advance to justify your absence. If you have more than one unexcused absence from class, you will receive a penalty of three points per additional unexcused absence on your final grade.

**Document Formatting and Citation Style Requirements:** All written assignments should be submitted in either MS-Word or PDF format. (If you use a different word processor than MS-Word, please convert the file to PDF before submitting it.) Assignments should be double spaced with 1” margins on all sides of each page, and should be printed in Times New Roman 12 point type or another font of similar size and appearance. Citations should preferably follow Turabian style, although APA style is also acceptable. Assignments must be submitted electronically by posting on the Sakai site. Hard-copies will not be accepted.

**Course Schedule and Assignment Due Dates:**

Please make every effort to complete each reading before or early in the section of the course to which it pertains.

**Jan. 19**

Introduction to the Course; Classical Philosophy Prior to Plato  
*Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, pp. ix-xxv

**Jan. 26**

Classical Philosophy—Plato  
*Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, pp. 1-37  
*Greek Philosophy: Thales to Aristotle*, pp. 57-281
Feb. 2  Classical Philosophy—Aristotle, Other Greek Philosophies, Platonism  
 *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, pp. 39-76  
 *Greek Philosophy: Thales to Aristotle*, pp. 285-438  
 *Greek and Roman Philosophy after Aristotle*, pp. 59-150, 199-285  

Feb. 9, 16  Classical Philosophy and Christian Late Antiquity  
 *Greek and Roman Philosophy after Aristotle*, pp. 287-357  
 Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Soul and the Resurrection* (entire)  
 Augustine, *Confessions* (Book 7)  
 *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, pp. 135-41  
 Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy* (entire)  

No class on Feb. 23  

Mar. 1, 8  Classical Philosophy and Byzantium/the Middle Ages  
 *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, pp. 77-112  
 *John of Damascus: Writings*, pp. 3-110  
 *Anselm of Canterbury: The Major Works*, pp. 5-122  
 *Summa of the Summa*, pp. 11-185  

Mar. 15, 22  Classical Philosophy and the Early Modern World  
 *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, pp. 113-68  
 *Philosophy of 16th/17th Centuries*, pp. 122-87  
 *18th-Century Philosophy*, pp. 22-61, 91-131, 240-302  

Mar. 29  Concluding Discussion  
 *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, pp. 169-252  

First research paper is due by Tuesday, April 12.  

Second research paper is due by Tuesday, May 3.  

Reading log is due by Tuesday, May 3.  

All late work is due by Saturday, May 7 (end of the spring semester).  

**Syllabus Addendum**  

**Academic Standards**  
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity.  
Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors.
Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations, should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

Extension Policy
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the last day of the semester are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the end of the semester must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the end of the semester. Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

Grades
Faculty have six weeks from the end of the semester to submit a final grade. Grades are posted on-line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades (unless instructed otherwise). Those individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party should put their request in writing to the Registration Office.

Virtual Writing Center
Free assistance in writing papers is available to students through the Virtual Writing Center at Gordon Conwell. The Virtual Writing Center is staffed by Gordon Conwell graduates, or writing tutors with specialized knowledge in writing and/ or ESL. Generally, this service is available to students who have completed or are currently enrolled in one of the following three classes:
o CT500 (Introduction to Theological Research)
o CO501 (Introduction to Counseling Research)
o IS502 (Theological Research and Writing)

If you enrolled in GCTS before Fall 2008, you were not required to take one of the three pre-requisites above, and you may request access to the Virtual Writing Center. Also, ESL writing tutors are available to ESL students even if they are not currently enrolled in a degree program. If you do not meet one of these qualifications, but feel you would benefit from using the Virtual Writing Center, contact us and we will evaluate your status.

Email writingcenter@gordonconwell.edu for more information.