Time and Place:

- Once a month on Friday afternoons
- 3:30 - 5:00 pm
- Duke 204

Dates and Topics:

January 22, 2010

- **Title:** “What, if anything, should a Christian do with a degree in Philosophy?”
- **Description:** Way back in 1984 (before many of you were born), renowned analytic Christian Philosopher, Alvin Plantinga, wrote “Advice to Christian Philosophers.” Plantinga argued that Christian philosophers must be bolder in exercising their right and duty to bring theistic assumptions to bear on the work they do as professional philosophers. In short, Christian philosophers should not let their agenda be dictated by colleagues and movements that do not share their Christian commitments. Fifteen years later, renowned continental Christian philosopher, Merold Westphal, responded to Plantinga’s “Advice” with some of his own. Westphal urges us to forsake the analyst’s preoccupation with asserting ‘propositions’ or ‘real matters of fact’ in order to engage in a kind of Christian philosophizing recognizing that “our truth” is very rarely “God’s truth.”
- **Participants:** This will be a student led discussion involving any and all interested students and faculty. Participants are encouraged to come ready to raise crucial questions or state their position on the legitimacy of Plantinga’s and Westphal’s vision of authentic Christian philosophizing. Their articles will be available online prior to the meeting. Among the questions posed by these articles warranting our consideration are: 1) How much time should Christian philosophers devote to teaching students how to defend their faith to a non-believer? 2) What are a Christian philosopher’s duties to the Church and to their non-Christian colleagues or students? How should one respond if and when these duties conflict? 3) To what extent is Christian philosophizing compatible with anti-realism and relativism?

February 19, 2010

- **Tentative Title:** “What is the relationship between faith and reason?”
- **Description:** The motivation for this topic is to get us further prepared for the Sophia lectures. Professor Westphal will be speaking on Kierkegaard’s understanding of faith and reason. Our philosophical colleague who teaches up at High Sierra, David Williams, recommended having students read Westphal’s “Taking St. Paul Seriously: Sin as an Epistemological Category, Christian Philosophy, ed. Thomas Flint, Notre Dame IN, 1990, 200-226. Partially reprinted in Faith and Reason, ed. Paul Helm, New York, 1999, 355-57. Professor Williams writes: “This is a wonderful article and accessible for students.” If it is accessible to students, then hopefully it will be accessible to the faculty.
- **Participants:** This will be a student led discussion involving any and all interested students and faculty.
March 19, 2010

- **Tentative Title:** *What constitutes a responsible belief in miracles?*
- **Description:** The motivation for this topic is to prepare us for Easter. Of course, how can philosophers better prepare for Easter than to consider David Hume’s skeptical objections to a belief in such miraculous events as a bodily resurrection? Here we would read and discuss Hume’s “Of Miracles”, §X of *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*. If we can handle this much reading this late in the semester, then we might also want to consider C. S. Lewis’ response to Hume presented in §XIII of *Miracles*.
- **Participants:** This will be a student led discussion involving any and all interested students and faculty.

April 23, 2010

- **Title** *TBA*
- **Description**
- **Participants**