

“The Fate of God in the Modern Age”
Director’s Class, Spring Semester 2016
Christian Study Center Classroom, Period Five (11:45 – 12:35)

“Could it be possible? He has not yet heard anything of this, that God is *dead*?”

Most of us like to think of ourselves as free and independent thinkers who have come to our basic convictions about life by way of sound reason. The truth, however, is that our history shapes us far more than we realize. The modern story that leads to our own doorstep doesn’t just push us toward particular conclusions, it shapes our very notion of what counts as reasonable.

At no point is this more significant than in our thinking about God.

Beginning in the seventeenth century and working into our present moment, this class will explore some ways that the modern story has shaped both *what* we think about God and *how* we think about God. The class meets on Wednesdays during period five (11:45 – 12:35) in the Study Center classroom (first floor of Pascal’s Coffeehouse) and is open to current college and university students and to alumni. Lunch is provided.

I will also be available and eager to meet with students outside of class on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and on Tuesday mornings. Please do not hesitate to make an appointment by contacting me at richard@christianstudycenter.org. Thank you.

Tentative Schedule

I. Introduction: Spoiler Alert (January 20)

Friedrich Nietzsche reveals the outcome of the modern story: “God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him.”

II. Part One: Onto-Theology (January 20 – February 24)

You may be suffering from onto-theologism without ever having heard of the disease (and both Bible-thumping theists and Bible-trashing atheists often suffer from this malady).

III. Part Two: Scientism (Wednesdays, March 16 – March 30)

If you get on the “new atheist” train, you will end up where the “new atheist” train tracks take you (and you may not even realize that you got on the train).

IV. Conclusion: Reconsiderations (April 6)

Please, visit christianstudycenter.org for information on this class and on other Study Center offerings.