IS GOD ILLUSION? NIETZSCHE AND KIERKEGAARD

PHIL 628-01 / PHIL 428W-01

This lecture and seminar course is a careful study of various texts by both authors including Nietzsche's *Genealogy of Morals* and Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*. It provides a dialogue between atheistic and theistic existentialism, especially in the light of "will to illusion" in the neo-Kantian hypothesis of Hans Vaihinger's *The Philosophy of "As If."* The professor will refer to other pertinent texts as well, including Eduard von Hartmann's *Philosophy of the Unconscious* and David Bentley Hart's *The Beauty of the Infinite*. The course asks the extent to which Nietzsche's critiques of morality and religion come from his finding them to be consciously or unconsciously illusory, how the same method could show that the faith Kierkegaard attributes to Abraham is illusory, and what Kierkegaard might argue in response.

Course requirements: All students must write a term paper. Graduate students present two oral seminar reports, at least one of which must be on Nietzsche, while undergraduates will respond to them in writing.