

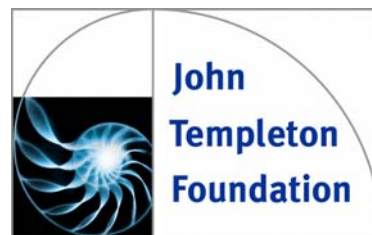
Considering God's Works: Exploring the Interface Between the Christian Faith and the Natural Sciences

Sunday, 9:00-10:15 AM
Berkeley Covenant Church
1632 Hopkins Street

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Joshua M. Moritz, Ph.D.



The Bible instructs Christians to consider the works of the Creator (Ps 111:2, Ps 19:1-6, Ps 8, Job 37:14) and Scripture tells us that even “God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature” may be clearly seen and “understood from what has been made” (Rom 1:20). Consequently, to believe in God as the Creator of the universe entails our making an effort to know more about the world God created—together with its beauty, its mystery, its wonder, its history, its vastness, its laws, its horrors, and its limits. In this class we will behold God’s cosmos through the lenses of the natural sciences and the philosophy of science. With the help of the ever-attentive eyes of the natural sciences we will explore the majesty of the material reality that God has created and continues to create. Learning what science *is* and *is not*, we will discover how theological and scientific truths interrelate, and how specific areas of scientific knowledge interact with, challenge, and uphold key areas of Christian belief.



COURSE SCHEDULE:

January 2012

15. What is Science?: Perspectives from the Philosophy of Science
22. The Nature of Truth and Limits in Science and in Theology
29. How Early Christians Read their Bible and Understood the World of Nature

February

5. No Lecture: Discussion Session

12. The War that Never Was—Unmaking the Myth of the “Historical Conflict Between Christianity and Science”: A Look at Some Key Case Studies
19. The Metaphysical Foundations of Science and the Role of Science in Faith
26. The Sectarian Origins of Young Earth Creationism

March

4. “In the Beginning”—Space, Time, the Cosmos, and the Creator: Part I
11. “In the Beginning”—Space, Time, the Cosmos, and the Creator: Part II
18. “And the Earth Produced Living Beings”—the Creation and Evolution of Life: Part I
25. “And the Earth Produced Living Beings”—the Creation and Evolution of Life: Part II

April

1. “Let Us Make Man in Our Image”—What Does it Mean to be Human?

8. Easter Sunday—No Class

- 15. Does God Really Act?: Divine Action, Miracles and Contemporary Science
- 22. The Physical Resurrection of Jesus and the Fact that Matter Matters
- 29. The Question of Human Nature: Neuroscience and the Soul

May

- 6. Evolution, Genetics, Cognitive Science, and Morality
- 13. The Fall, Freedom, Death, Evil and the Natural Sciences
- 20. The End of the World and the Ends of God: Eschatology and Cosmology
- 27. Conclusions from Our Study of Science and the Christian Faith

Introductory and General Texts:

The Cambridge Companion to Science and Religion, Peter Harrison; *A Science and Religion Primer*, Heidi Campbell and Heather Looy
Is Nature Enough? Meaning and Truth in the Age of Science, John Haught
The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief, Francis Collins
Religion and Science: Historical and Contemporary Issues, Ian Barbour
Religion and Science: History, Method and Dialogue, W. Richardson, and W. Wildman
Science and Religion: A Very Short Introduction, Thomas Dixon
Science and Theology: The New Consonance, Ted Peters

History of Science and Religion and Philosophy of Science:

Creation and the History of Science, Christopher B. Kaiser
The Creationists, Ronald Numbers
Galileo Goes to Jail and Other Myths about Science and Religion, Ed. by Ronald Numbers;
The Genesis of Science How the Christian Middle Ages Launched the Scientific Revolution, James Hannam;
God and Nature: Historical Essays on the Encounter between Christianity and Science, Ed. R. Lindberg and R. Numbers
The Mind of the Universe: Understanding Science & Religion, Mariano Artigas
Oracles of Science: Celebrity Scientists versus God and Religion, Karl Giberson and Mariano Artigas
Science and Its Limits: The Natural Sciences in Christian Perspective, Del Ratzsch
Science and Religion: A Historical Introduction by Gary Ferngren
Science and Religion, 400 B.C. to A.D. 1550: From Aristotle to Copernicus, Edward Grant
Science and Religion: New Historical Perspectives, Eds. Thomas Dixon, Geoffrey Cantor, Stephen Pumfrey
Science and Religion: Some Historical Perspectives, John Hedley Brooke
“The Philosophy of Science: What One Needs to Know,” *Zygon*, Philip Clayton

Cosmology and Creation:

Bridging Science and Religion, Ted Peters
Belief in God in and Age of Science, John Polkinghorne
Cosmology from Alpha to Omega: The Creative Mutual Interaction of Theology and Science, Robert John Russell
God, Creation and Contemporary Physics, M. W. Worthing
God and Contemporary Science, Philip Clayton
Theology and Modern Physics, Peter Hodgson
On the Moral Nature of the Universe: Theology, Cosmology, and Ethics, George F. R. Ellis and Nancey Murphy
The Faith of a Physicist, John Polkinghorne

Evolution and Creation:

Evolution from Creation to New Creation, Ted Peters and Martinez Hewlett
“Evolution, the End of Human Uniqueness, and the Election of the *Imago Dei*,” Joshua Moritz

“Entropy and Evil,” *Zygon* 19, R. J. Russell

The Groaning of Creation, C. Southgate

Life’s Solution: Inevitable Humans in a Lonely Universe, Simon Conway Morris

Physics and Cosmology: Scientific Perspectives on the Problem of Natural Evil, Eds. N. Murphy, R. Russell, W. Stoeger;

Human Nature and the Soul:

Body Soul and Human Life, Joel B. Green

Evolution and Ethics: Human Morality in Biological and Religious Perspective, Eds. P. Clayton & J. Schloss

Why Would Anyone Believe in God? Justin Barrett

Whatever Happened to the Soul? Scientific and Theological Portraits of Human Nature, Eds. W. Brown, N.

Murphy

What About the Soul? Ed. Joel Green;

Divine Action, the End of the World, and Natural Evil:

Divine Action: Examining God’s Role in an Open and Emergent Universe, Keith Ward

Resurrection: Theological and Scientific Assessments, Ted Peters, Robert Russell, and Michael Welker

Scientific Perspectives on Divine Action, CTNS/Vatican Observatory series, R. Russell

The Evolution of Evil, Eds. Ted Peters, R.J. Russell, Martinez Hewlett, and G. Bennett

The God of Hope and the End of the World, John Polkinghorne

The End of the World and the Ends of God: Science and Theology on Eschatology, J. C. Polkinghorne and M. Welker

The Far-Future Universe: Eschatology from a Cosmic Perspective, Ed. George Ellis