



## **REL 3160: RELIGION AND SCIENCE**

Summer B 2019

2:00-3:15 pm, MTWRF

Anderson 101

Instructor: Anna Peterson

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1-2 pm and by appointment

### **Description**

This class examines the relationship between religion, science, and philosophy in different religious traditions, historical and contemporary. The course does not require any previous training in religious studies or in the specific topics addressed. However, as an intermediate level course, it will include intensive reading and writing, including critical analysis of complex materials and issues. This class fulfills 2000 words of the University Writing requirement.

### **Required Books**

1. Gary B. Ferngren, ed., *Science and Religion: A Historical Introduction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017).
2. Aaron Mackler, *Introduction to Jewish and Catholic Bioethics: A Comparative Analysis* (Georgetown, 2003).

### **Additional Required Readings (Available on canvas or online)**

Gad Freudenthal, "From Arabic to Hebrew: The Reception of the Greco-Arab Sciences in Hebrew." In *A History of Jewish-Muslim Relations: From the Origins to the Present Day*. Ed. Abdelwahab Meddeb and Benjamin Stora (Princeton University Press, 2013)

Carolyn Merchant, *The Death of Nature* (), Ch. 9-10

Darwin, *On the Origin of Species*, Ch. 3-4

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1228/1228-h/1228-h.htm>

Russell Powell and Steve Clarke, "Religion as Evolutionary Byproduct: A Critique of the Standard Model." *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 63, No. 3 (Sept. 2012): 457-486

Pascal Boyer and Brian Bergstrom, "Evolutionary Perspectives on Religion." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 37 (2008): 111-130

Amos Yong, "Mind and Life, Religion and Science: His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Buddhism-Christianity-Science Dialogue." *Buddhist-Christian Studies*. 28 (2008): 43-63.

Kathleen Garces-Foley, "Buddhism, Hospice, and the American Way of Dying." *Review of Religious Research* 44, No. 4 (June 2003): 341-353.

Aasim I. Padela, "Muslim Perspectives on the American Healthcare System: The Discursive Framing of 'Islamic' Bioethical Discourse." *Die Welt des Islams* 55, Issue 3/4 (2015): 413-447.

David C. Barker and David H. Bearce, "End-Times Theology, the Shadow of the Future, and Public Resistance to Addressing Global Climate Change." *Political Research Quarterly* 66, No. 2 (June 2013): 267-279.

### **Code of Conduct**

*Code of Conduct:* On the first day of class, students will develop a code of conduct to guide student discussions and behavior in class. This code will be posted on the class website. For information on how we will develop the code of conduct, see [http://www.difficultdialoguesuaa.org/handbook/content/technique\\_code\\_of\\_conduct](http://www.difficultdialoguesuaa.org/handbook/content/technique_code_of_conduct)

### **Writing and Attendance Requirements**

1. Attendance and participation in class discussions, including timely and close reading of all assigned texts. There will be five unannounced reading quizzes, which will account for 10% of the final grade.
2. Short essay (min. 1000 words) on historical perspectives, due by midnight on Wed., July 17 (via canvas). 30% of final grade.
3. Short essay on evolution (min. 1000 words), due by midnight on Sunday, July 28 (via canvas). 30% of final grade
4. Poster presentations on contemporary ethical issues, to be held in class on August 9. Every student will write a short (approx. 2 page) position paper in addition to participating in a group

poster project. The individual paper be 20% of your final grade and the poster will be 10% of the final grade.

### **Assignment Policies**

In addition to the code of conduct, here are some general rules regarding assignments:

1. *Handing in Assignments:* Place all papers in my mailbox in the Religion Department, 107 Anderson Hall. DO NOT slip them under the door or leave them on the door of my office, the main department office, or the teaching assistant's office. Please also keep a dated electronic copy of all your papers.
2. *Late or Make-Up Assignments:* You may take an exam early or receive an extension on an exam or essay assignment *only* in extraordinary circumstances *and* with prior approval from the instructor. If an extension is not granted, the assignment will be marked down ½ grade (e.g., from B+ to B) for each day late.
3. *Completion of All Assignments:* You must complete all written and oral assignments and fulfill the requirement for class participation in order to pass the course. I will not average a grade that is missing any assignment or requirement.
4. *Attendance and Participation:* Class attendance is required. The instructor will *not* provide notes or discuss material that has already been covered for students who miss class or arrive late, barring extraordinary circumstances.
5. *Honor Code:* On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The university specifically prohibits cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, and fabrication. For more information about the definition of these terms and other aspects of the Honesty Guidelines, see <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

### **Resources for Students**

1. *Accommodation for Disabilities:* Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.
2. *Counseling Resources:* Resources available on-campus for students include the following:
  - a. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
  - b. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
  - c. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling;
  - d. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

3. *Software Use:* All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

4. *Writing assistance:* the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has a writing studio, located in Turlington Hall, which offers individual tutoring and assistance with writing. For more information and to make appointments, see <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

### **Schedule**

\*\* PLEASE NOTE: There may be changes in dates and assignments. Students will be informed of any changes and will be responsible for having assignments completed by the updated due dates. \*\*

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>
Mon 7/1	Introduction to the class	Code of Conduct
<b><u>I. Historical Perspectives: from Ancient times to the Scientific Revolution</u></b>		
T 7/2	Conflict or complexity?	Ferngren, Ch 1
W 7/3	Greece	Ferngren, Ch. 2 (Aristotle)
Th 7/4	Independence Day holiday, no class	
F 7/5	Judaism	Freudenthal, "From Arabic to Hebrew"
M 7/8	Early Christianity Medieval Christianity	Ferngren, Ch. 3 Ferngren, Ch. 4
T 7/9	Islam	Ferngren, Ch. 5
W 7/10	Copernicus and Galileo	Ferngren, Ch. 6 and 7
Th 7/11	Protestantism and the Scientific Revolution	Ferngren, Ch. 8
F 7/12	Newton	Ferngren, Ch. 9
M 7/15	Engineering the Renaissance	Guest lecturer: Prof. Mark Law
T 7/16	Critiques of the scientific revolution	Merchant, <i>The Death of Nature</i> , Ch. 9-10
W 7/17	<i>Reading day; first essay due by midnight tonight (via canvas)</i>	

#### IV. Evolution and Religious Responses

Th 7/18	Darwin Evolution	Ferngren, Ch. 13 Ferngren, Ch. 14
F 7/19	<i>On The Origin of Species</i>	<i>On the Origin of Species</i> , Ch. 3-4
M 7/22	The Bible and responses to evolution	Ferngren, Ch. 16
Tu 7/23	Evangelicalism and Fundamentalism The Scopes Trial	Ferngren, Ch. 18 Ferngren, Ch. 19
W 7/24	Catholicism Judaism	Ferngren, Ch. 15 Ferngren, Ch. 20
Th 7/25	Asian Traditions	Ferngren, Ch. 21 Yong, "Mind and Life, Religion and Science"
F 7/26	The evolution of religion?	Boyer and Bergstrom, "Evolutionary Perspectives on Religion" Powell and Clarke, "Religion as Evolutionary

\*\* Second short essay; due at midnight on Sunday 7/28

#### V. Contemporary Ethical Issues

M 7/29	Introduction to Bioethics Choose groups and topics for poster presentations	Mackler, Ch. 1-2
T 7/30	Euthanasia and end of life	Mackler, Ch. 3-4
W 7/31	Euthanasia and end of life	Garces-Foley, "Buddhism, Hospice, and the American Way of Dying."
Th 8/1	Abortion and reproduction	Mackler, Ch. 5
F 8/2	Abortion and reproduction	Mackler, Ch. 6
M 8/5	Health Care reform	Mackler, Ch. 7 Padela, "Muslim Perspectives"
T 8/6	Environmental ethics	Ferngren, Ch. 27
W 8/7		Barker and Bearce, "End-Times Theology"

Th 8/8 *Meet with groups to prepare posters*

F 8/9 Modular debate in class. Hand in copy of short paper at start of class.