

Science and Religion 01:840:424:01
Location: Cook/Douglass, Loree Room 131.
Tuesdays 2:15-5:15
Instructor: Edwin Bryant.
E-mail: edbryant@religion.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Tue 1-2.00 P.M.

Course Description and Objectives: To engage some of the prominent arguments that have been raised over the last few decades for and against the existence of an Intelligent Design model of the Universe, as well as for and against the existence of a 'soul' or non-material entity underpinning consciousness. An additional reading aims to bring Eastern Religious perspectives into the conversation.

Course Requirement: Class attendance and participation (10% of the final grade); two non-cumulative quizzes (20% of the final grade each); a final 10 page paper (40% of the final grade). 5 reading response papers - students will be required to seek critical reviews published in peer reviewed journals for each of the five major course texts, and summarize the primary arguments and observations of these reviews (10% of the final grade).

Please note: there are no make-ups for missed quizzes or exams except in the case of an absence caused by an unexpected emergency and evidenced by a doctor's or dean's note. In the event of such a documented emergency, the instructor must be informed of the impending absence immediately (i.e. on the day of the quiz), and the make-up must be taken on the day after the quiz. There are no exceptions to these conditions. Also, students who send/check e-mail or text messages etc., during class, will have points deducted from their grade.

Required Reading *Books available at the Douglass Coop:*

- 1) *The God Delusion*, Dawkins, Richard New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2006.
- 2) *Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science Religion and Naturalism*, Plantinga, Alvin New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- 3) *The Soul Fallacy*, Musolino, Julien New York: Prometheus Books: New York, 2015.

Required Readings (available on sakai)

Debating Design Dembski, W & Ruse, M New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

The Soul Hypothesis Baker, Mark & Goetz, Stewart London: Bloomsbury, 2013.

“What is a Problem For All, is a Problem for None: Substance Dualism, Physicalism, and the Mind-Body Problem” Himma, Kenneth Einar *American Philosophical Quarterly* 42:2, April 2005.

The Tao of Physics Capra, Fritjof, Berkeley: Shambhala, 1975.

Tue Jan 22nd

Focus: General introduction to the course.

Tue Jan 29th

Focus: *The God Delusion*, chapters 1-5.

Readings: A Deeply Religious Non-Believer; The God Hypothesis; Arguments for God's Existence; Why There Almost Certainly is no God.

Tue Feb 5th

Focus: *The God Delusion*, chapters 5 (cont.) -10.

Readings: The Roots of Religion; The Roots of Morality: Why we are Good; The 'Good' Book and the Changing Moral Zeitgeist; What's Wrong with Religion - Why be so Hostile? Childhood, Abuse and the Escape from Religion; A Much Needed Gap?

Tue Feb 12th

Focus: *Where the Conflict Really Lies*, part I, alleged Conflict; part II, Superficial

Conflict.

Readings: Evolution and Christian Belief; Divine Action in the World; the old Picture; the New Picture; Evolutionary psychology and Scriptural Scholarship; Defeaters?

Tue Feb 19th

Focus: Where the Conflict Really Lies part III, Concord; Part IV, Deep Conflict.

Readings: Fine-Tuning; Design Discourse; Deep Concord: Christian Theism and the Deep Roots of Science; The Evolutionary Argument Against Naturalism.

Tue Feb 26th

Focus: Debating Design

Readings: Introduction & part I, Darwinism: Chapter 1, General Introduction; Chapter 2, The Argument from Design; Chapter 3, Whose Afraid of ID?; Chapter 4, Design without Designer; Chapter 5, The Flagellum Unspun; chapter 7, DNA by Design?

Tue March 5th

Focus: Debating Design

Readings Parts II, Complex Self Organization & III, Theistic Evolution; Chapter 9, Darwinism, Design, and Complex Systems Dynamics; Chapter 10, Emergent Complexity, Teleology, and the Arrow of Time; Chapter 11, The Emergence of Biological Value; Chapter 12, Darwin, Design, and Divine Providence; Chapter 13, The Inbuilt Potentiality of Creation; Chapter 14, Theistic Evolution; Chapter 15, Intelligent Design; Chapter 16, The Argument from Laws of Nature Reassessed.

Tue March 12th

QUIZ I

Focus: Debating Design

Readings Parts IV, Intelligent Design; Chapter 19, Irreducible Complexity; Chapter 20, The Cambrian Information Explosion.

Spring break Saturday, March 16th - Sunday, March 24th

Tue March 26th

Focus: The Soul Delusion

Readings: Chapters 1-4; Lifting the Veil; The Spirit of the Age; The first Principle; Dualism on Trial.

Tue April 2nd

Focus: The Soul Delusion

Readings: Chapters 5-9; Requiem for the Soul; La Mettrie's Revenge; Descartes Shadow; The Sum of all Fears; Imagine.

Tue April 9th

Focus: The Soul Hypothesis

Readings: Introduction & Chapter 1, The Soul of the matter; Chapter 2, Mind, Brains, and Brains in Vats; Chapter 3, Brains and Souls; Grammar and Speaking; Chapter 4, Making Things Happen.

Tue April 16th

Focus: The Soul Hypothesis

Readings: Chapter 5, The Energy of the Soul; chapter 7, From Experience to Experiencer; chapter 8, Souls Bestly and Human; Chapter 9, A Scientific Case

for the Soul.

Tue April 23rd

Focus: The Tao of Physics

Readings: Part I, the Way of Physics: chapter 1, Modern Physics - a path with a Heart?, chapter 2, Knowing and Seeing; chapter 3, Beyond Language; chapter 4, The New Physics; & Part II, The way of Eastern Mysticism: Chapter 5, Hinduism; chapter 6 Buddhism; chapter 7, Chinese Thought; chapter 8, chapter Taoism; chapter 9, Zen

Tue April 30th

Focus: The Tao of Physics

Readings: Part III, The Parallels: chapter 10, the Unity of all Things; chapter 11, Beyond the World of Opposites; chapter 12, Space-Time; chapter 13, The Dynamic Universe; chapter 14, Emptiness and Form; chapter 15, The Cosmic Dance; chapter 16, Quark Symmetries - *A New Koan?* Chapter 17, Patterns of Change; chapter 18, Interpenetration.