Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: RELI 400

Course Title: Religion and Science

Number of: Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: A study of the contemporary encounter of science and religion in light of their historical background, aims, methods, points of conflict and possible dialogue. Subjects include: logos and mythos, the case of Galileo, Newton, Darwinism, Einstein’s religion, creation and Big Bang, Creationism and Design, Anthropic Principle, contingency and necessity, God, secular humanism. Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of the instructor. Occasional offering.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Junior standing or permission of the instructor.

Text(s): Most current editions of the following:

- Ian Barbour, Religion and Science.
- Roland numbers, ed., God and Nature.
- Daniel Dennett, Darwin’s Dangerous Idea.
- Paul Davies, God and the New Physics.
- Max Jammer, Einstein’s Religion.
- Jacques Monod, Chance and Necessity.
- Langdon Gilkey, Creationism on Trial.
- Stanly L. Jaki, The Road of Science and the Ways to God.
- Fritjof Capra, The Tao of Physics.
- Stephen Hawking, A Brief History of Time, The Universe in a Nutshell.
- Arthur Peacocke, Creation and the World of Science.
- Wolfhart Pannenberg, Theology and the Philosophy of Science.
- Paul K. Feyerabend, Farewell to Reason.

Course Objectives:

- To place science and religion encounters in historical context.
- To examine various controversies and collaboration.
- To gain a basic understanding of theism, atheism, antheism, panentheism, creation. Secular humanism, evolution, anthropic/design arguments, etc.
Measurable Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate knowledge of the interplay of science and religion throughout history.
- Articulate how scientific theories impact religious beliefs and doctrines.
- Analyze and critically evaluate the primary writings of scientific and religious thinkers.
- Describe how religious ideas have influenced the creation and construction of scientific theories.
- Differentiate between physical theories and the expansion of such theories into metaphysical ideas.
- Demonstrate critical evaluation of religious arguments for or against science.
- Demonstrate critical evaluation of scientific arguments for or against religious doctrines.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

- Introduction to mythos and logos
- Reason and revelation
- The scientific revolution in astronomy
- Case of Galileo
- Newton and religion
- Darwin and evolution
- Modern biology
- Science and the Higher Criticism
- Creationism and Fundamentalism
- Materialism and Secular Humanism
- Einstein and the New Physics
- Theological responses to relativity
- Quantum Theory
- Eastern thought and the New Physics
- Psychology and Religion
- Creation and Big Bang Cosmology
- Chaos Theory

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 20

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

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Date: May 10, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.