

Philosophy 2061F
Science vs. Religion:
the epistemological conflict

Course Outline (revised)



Clerks studying geometry & astronomy, French, early 1400s

September to December, 2015
Talbot College 343
Lectures: T 1.30-2.30 & Th 1.30-3.30

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Stevenson Hall 4141
Office Hours: T & Th 12.30-1.20

Description

This course studies the epistemological clash between religion and science, looking especially at evolutionary theory, cosmology, miracles, the status of religious experience. It also studies attempts to reconcile these two systems of knowledge. Finally, it examines the science *of* religion: anthropological theories of religion and the cognitive science of religion.

Objectives

This elective course has two objectives. First, it seeks to give students a comprehensive overview of the lively field of current debate between science and religion; the vantage point of the course is epistemological, that is, the question of the grounding of competing knowledge claims. Second, the writing of two short essays will enhance students' ability to think, argue, and write clearly – skills that are of universal usefulness.

Method of Instruction

Lectures with class discussion.

Requirements

Two short essays (2000-2500 words), due October 22 & December 3, 50%

One final examination during the examination period in December, 40%

Class participation, 10%

Text

All readings for this course will be available online.