

RELI 30723: Religion & Science
Texas Christian University
Spring 2011
<http://faculty.tcu.edu/grant/30723>

Dr. C. David Grant
Professor of Religion
Drop-in Office hours: M 1:30–3:00, R 2:00–4:00.
(I am readily available other times by appointment.)

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Course Description. An exploration of the ways of knowing utilized in religion (particularly the Judeo-Christian heritage) and in science, and how these ways of knowing relate. Emphasis will be given to the idea of creation in Christianity and its relation to the idea of evolution in science.

Objectives. As a result of this course students will:

1. Be able to articulate an understanding of the nature of religion, the kinds of questions appropriate within religion, and the scope and limits of religious claims.
2. Be able to articulate an understanding of the nature of science, the kinds of questions appropriate within the sciences, and the scope and limits of scientific claims.
3. Know about the Christian doctrine of creation, its biblical roots, the history of its development, and current formulations of this doctrine among contemporary Christians.
4. Be able to articulate the main points in Darwin's argument in the *Origin of Species*.
5. Be acquainted with major historical interactions between religion and science.
6. Be knowledgeable about the current cultural debates concerning matters in which religion and science intersect, e.g., Intelligent Design.

Requirements. Students will be expected to:

1. Attend class. Consistent class attendance is expected of all students and erratic attendance will adversely affect your term grade. *After five unexcused absences, your final grade will be lowered a half-letter for each additional absence.* A role sheet will be passed around at each class meeting. Your signature on it becomes the official record of attendance. If you arrive late to class be sure to sign the role sheet before you leave for the day.
2. Read assignments carefully and demonstrate this by participating in class discussions. On occasion, you will be randomly selected to orally report on the day's readings. Your success in doing so will constitute the major portion of your "Recitation" grade.
3. Complete all daily writing assignments on time. A number daily assignments will be made during the semester. These assignments will be posted on the course web page as they are assigned. If you miss class, be sure to check the web page to see if an assignment was made in your absence. Students who miss a daily assignment because of an officially excused university activity, a serious illness, or a family emergency must contact Dr. Grant before it is missed, otherwise late assignments will not be accepted.
4. Take two Hour Examinations during the class period, on Monday, February 14, and on Monday, March 28, and a Final Examination on Monday, May 2, from 8:00–10:30 A.M., each of which will cover both lectures and reading assignments. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS WILL BE GIVEN**

EXCEPT FOR OFFICIAL ABSENCES, SERIOUS ILLNESS, CATASTROPHIC ACCIDENTS, OR FAMILY EMERGENCIES. The instructor will ask for documentation to verify such events and may ask the Campus Life Office to verify the reason for the absence. Such verification will require the presentation of appropriate medical records as requested by the instructor or the Campus Life Office.

Students who miss an examination because of officially excused university activities must contact me *before* the examination is missed to make arrangements for rescheduling the test. Students who miss an examination due to serious illness, catastrophic accident, or family emergency should contact me before the examination if possible and should in no instance wait later than the day after the scheduled examination to do so. My office telephone number and e-mail address are listed on the previous page. Leave a message if I'm not in when you call. (Note: you will not be given a make-up exam until the serious illness, catastrophic accident, or family emergency is verified.)

- Write a term essay (2500-5000 words in length) on a topic in religion and science. That essay should be between 2500 and 5000 words. The topic will be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Further instructions concerning this essay will be distributed early in the semester. The term essay will be due on Monday, April 18, at the beginning of class.

Reading Materials. Some reading assignments during the semester will be available electronically on a Resource page linked to the course web page. I also ask you to purchase in the bookstore the following books:

Darwin, Charles. *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*. New York: Signet Classics, 2003.

Dembski, William A. and Michael Ruse. *Debating Design: From Darwin to DNA*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2004.

Dixon, Thomas. *Science and Religion: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2008.

Grades. Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Daily Written Assignments	20%
Class Recitation	10%
Two Hour Exams (@ 10% each)	20%
Final Examination	25%
Term Essay	25%

Grades will be based on the scale of quality delineated in the *TCU Undergraduate Studies Bulletin 2010-2011*:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
<i>Excellent</i>		<i>Good</i>			<i>Satisfactory</i>			<i>Poor</i>			

Writing Assignments. Not only what you say, but how well you say it will factor into my evaluation of your written work. Your papers should follow the conventions of style set out in Joseph Gibaldi, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed.* (New York: Modern Language Association, 2009) and should be free of mechanical, spelling, and typographical errors. All work should be presented double-spaced with one-inch margins. Please use a standard twelve-point font.

All papers are due at the beginning of class on the stated due date and *late papers will be assessed a significant penalty, a letter grade per day, or any portion of a day, late.*

Academic misconduct of any kind, as defined in the current Code of Student Conduct, will be grounds for failing the course. Students should be especially careful to avoid *plagiarism* in their written work. *Plagiarism*, whether accidental or deliberate, is a serious academic offense. You can avoid plagiarism by carefully using quotation marks around material that you directly cite from a source and indicating your indebtedness to an author by a reference when you borrow ideas. Please see chapter two of the *MLA Handbook* for a detailed discussion of plagiarism. You will submit your papers to Turnitin.com to screen for problems. (Instructions for doing this will be distributed at the appropriate time during the semester.) The Turnitin.com website also has helpful information about avoiding plagiarism. If I'm suspicious that your paper is plagiarized or contains plagiarism, I will ask you to defend your paper in an oral examination. Should I determine that plagiarism has occurred, you will receive a zero on the assignment and I will recommend to the dean that you be dropped from the course with an *F*.

Disabilities Statement: Texas Christian University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. Eligible students seeking accommodations should contact the Coordinator of Student Disabilities Services in the Center for Academic Services located in Sadler Hall, 11. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Further information can be obtained from the Center for Academic Services, TCU Box 297710, Fort Worth, TX 76129, or at (817) 257-7486.

Adequate time must be allowed to arrange accommodations and accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible in the academic term for which they are seeking accommodations. *Each eligible student is responsible for presenting relevant, verifiable, professional documentation and/or assessment reports to the Coordinator.* Guidelines for documentation may be found at http://www.acs.tcu.edu/disability_documentation.asp.

Students with emergency medical information or needing special arrangements in case a building must be evacuated should discuss this information with their instructor/professor as soon as possible.

Last day to withdraw from the course: March 10, 2011.

Final Examination: Monday, May 2, 2011 at 8:00–10:30 A.M.

Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments
RELI 30723-010: Religion & Science
Spring 2011
Dr. Grant
Schedule Part 1 (Corrected)

	DATE		LECTURE/DISCUSSION TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
1	Mon.	1/10	Course introduction	
2	Wed.	1/12	The Nature of Religion	Read: Ninian Smart "Introduction" in Resources.
3	Fri.	1/14	The Nature of Science	
	Mon.	1/17	MLK HOLIDAY	
4	Wed.	1/19	Religion & Science: Approaches	Read: Ian Barbour, "Four Views of Science and Religion" in Resources.
5	Fri.	1/21	Creation in the Bible 1	Genesis, chaps. 1-3.
6	Mon.	1/24	Creation in the Bible 2	Nahum Sarna, "Creation" in Resources
7	Wed.	1/26	Creation and Cosmology in the Middle Ages	Selections from Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i> , in Resources.
8	Fri.	1/28	Copernicus and Galileo	Galileo's "Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina" in "The Galileo Affair," pp. 87-118. (Resources)
9	Mon.	1/31	Galileo and His Condemnation	Trial documents from Galileo's condemnation in <i>The Galileo Affair</i> , pp. 287-93. (Resources)
10	Wed.	2/2	Isaac Newton's <i>Principia Mathematica</i>	"General Scholium" to <i>Principia Mathematica</i> . (Resources).
11	Fri.	2/4	John Locke and English Deism	
12	Mon.	2/7	William Paley and the Argument from Design	Selections from Paley's <i>Natural Theology</i> . (Resources)
13	Wed.	2/9	Genesis and Geology	TBA
14	Fri.	2/11	General Discussion Day	
15	Mon.	2/14	FIRST HOUR EXAMINATION	