

Science and the Christian Tradition

Dr Megan Ulishney

Once lauded as the queen of the sciences, theology is now often painted in popular culture as an enemy of the natural sciences. This course will draw on historical and theological disciplines to investigate key issues in science and religion scholarship. Students will first engage with three key historical figures in science and religion (Galileo, Newton, Darwin), and then proceed with contemporary questions in biblical studies, biology, and physics. By the end of this course, you will have had the chance to explore many different perspectives on the relationship between science and religion.

Seminar specific student learning outcomes

Students who have taken this seminar will:

- have demonstrated awareness of discussions and controversies within science, within theology and religion, and between science and religion in historical view
- have articulated various possible relationships between science and religion, and critiqued these models effectively
- have demonstrated considered awareness of the complexities of the historical relationship between science and religion
- have discussed and carefully assessed the theological issues thrown up by advances in the physical sciences
- have evaluated various models of biblical interpretation in light of scientific findings
- have used contemporary scholarship to understand, analyse, and draw conclusions on at least one major area of contemporary engagement
- have been consistent and rigorous in method and argument

Required reading

- T. Dixon, *Science and religion: a very short introduction* (2008)
E. Johnson, *Ask the beasts: Darwin and the God of love* (2014)
E. Larson, *Summer for the Gods* (2008)
A. McGrath, *Science and religion: a new introduction* (2010)
A. Farrer, *A science of God?* (1966/2009)

Recommended reading list

- P. Harrison, *The Territories of Science and Religion* (2015)
T. McLeish, *Faith and Wisdom in Science* (2014)
S.C. Barton and D. Wilkinson, eds. *Reading Genesis after Darwin* (2009)
S. J. Gould, *Rock of Ages: Science and Religion in the Fullness of Life* (1999)
D. Edwards, *How God acts: creation, redemption, and special divine action* (2010)
T. Fretheim, *God and world in the Old Testament* (2005)
R.J. Russell, N. Murphy, and W.R. Stoeger, eds. *Scientific perspectives on divine action* (2008)
J. Polkinghorne, *Science and providence* (2005)
C. Southgate, *The groaning of creation: God, evolution, and the problem of evil* (2008)
S.P. Rosenberg, ed. *Finding ourselves after Darwin* (2018)
J.H. Brooke, *Science and religion: Some historical perspectives* (1993)