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Online Syllabus Cover Page
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Please check back regularly for possible updates

Syllabus last **Updated** on March 26, 2009

Course number and title: PHIL 341 Philosophical Issues in Science: When Science and Religion Meet

Course Delivery Mode: Onsite

CRN: 92107

Credits: 2

Gen Ed: (AEH); (); (AH)

Instructor: Mark Webb

E-mail: mwebb@eou.edu

Prerequisites:

Additional Course Fees:

Location:

EOU Grant County Regional Center, 835 S Canyon Blvd, John Day, OR

Dates & Time:

Friday, April 17, 6pm-9pm and Saturday, April 18, 8am-5pm

The instructor may provide an updated syllabus at the start of the course. If so, be sure to follow the updated information provided by the instructor.

Most online courses use the Blackboard course management system. However, it may not appear in your list of courses within Blackboard until the first day of the term. Please read the entire syllabus for course delivery information. IF the course uses Blackboard but you do not see it in your list of courses after the start of the term, contact your instructor for details. For more information about Blackboard, see the Welcome document at <http://www.eou.edu/bb/documents/BBinstruct.pdf>.

Verify with your syllabus whether a proctor is required for exams and if they require hard copy or on line formats
<http://www.ous.edu/webster/>

If you are new to online courses visit the EOU web site at: http://www.eou.edu/advising/how_to_start.html for information on how to start your course. Be sure to look at the [Dates and Deadlines](#) for this term.

IMPORTANT NOTICES:

The instructor for this course allows students **one term** for course completion.

Federal Financial Aid: Students who are receiving **federal financial aid** must complete this course in one term. Further financial aid information can be found at: <http://www.eou.edu/fao>

EOU E-Mail Account: EOU policy REQUIRES students to have access to their EOU email account for all electronic academic correspondence from EOU to students. Follow the [steps to access your e-mail account](#).

Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.eou.edu/saffairs/handbook/condct.html>

Computer & Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy: <http://www.eou.edu/comp/aup.html>

Learning Disabilities: If you have a documented disability or suspect that you have a learning problem, please contact the Disability Services Office at 541-962-3081 or e-mail Pat Arnson parnson@eou.edu.

Turn in Assignments: Please read your syllabus carefully for assignment requirements. *For most courses which use Blackboard, assignments are submitted in Blackboard.* If you are to mail or fax your assignments to EOU, attach an Assignment Coversheet to each assignment. Assignment coversheets can be found at: http://www.eou.edu/advising/documents/coversheet_assignment.pdf. You can track the status of these assignments and exams at: <http://www.eou.edu/advising/assign.html>. If you are to submit your assignments electronically, enter the subject line as: [Your last name], [Course Prefix / Number], [brief description of assignment] and put your full name and course name on the first page of each attachment.

Questions:

Syllabi:

syllabus@eou.edu 1-800-544-2195

Blackboard:

<http://d2.parature.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=4330> 1-866-517-3593

Online & Hard Copy Exams:

Travis Paulson, tpaulson@eou.edu 1-800-544-2195 x 8



EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY
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COURSE SYLLABUS

College of Arts and Sciences

Course Number: PHIL 341 (AEH)

Course Name: Philosophical Issues in Science:
When Science and Religion Meet

Course Description: Natural science is the best example we have of a reliable knowledge gathering enterprise: What it has taught us about the natural world is phenomenal. And for precisely this reason it provides, for many individuals, *the* means by which any claim arising from other human pursuits or activities is to be evaluated. What happens—or should happen—when such claims are challenged, even “contradicted”, by the findings of natural science? This course will consider that question as it pertains to the Judeo-Christian account of the creation and structure of the universe.

Now, to understand and appreciate that question, we require a context. And the context for this course will involve a discussion of the “nature” of science—its goals and methods; it will also involve some theology and hermeneutics. These are large issues, but for the purposes of this course we can get up to speed fairly quickly by focusing on two episodes: The so-called “Copernican Revolution” in early modern science, and the neo-Darwinian account of evolution. These episodes, or scientific developments, nicely illustrate the nature of science, the epistemological or methodological difficulties involved in properly evaluating scientific claims, and also many of the relevant issues and serious challenges (theological and hermeneutical) that need to be addressed if one is to responsibly answer the above question.

Credit Hours: 2

Instructor: Mark Webb (541-932-4954) mwebb@ortelco.net

Class Format: Onsite Course Grant County Center

Required Readings: Genesis chapters 1-3, 7-8; Joshua chapter 10: 1-15;
T. S. Kuhn, *The Copernican Revolution*, chapters 2-6
B. K. Waltke, *Creation and Chaos*
Richard J. Clifford, “Creation in the Bible”
Ernan McMullin, “Natural Science and Belief in a Creator”
Richard J. Clifford, “Creation in the Bible”
Francisco J. Ayala, “Biological Evolution: An Introduction”
Charles R. Marshall, “Darwinism in an Age of Molecular Revolution”
John R. Durant, “A Critical-Historical Perspective on the Argument about Evolution”

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course the student should be able to describe: (a) the goals and methods of natural science; (b) why these goals and methods, properly understood, are domain or subject matter specific; (c) some difficulties involved in theory appraisal; (d) some ways in which natural science challenges other disciplines and human endeavors, particularly religious ones; (e) different hermeneutical approaches for understanding religious texts; and (f), what implications these approaches have for evaluating the truth claims of natural science, and vice versa. The student should also be better prepared to engage and critical evaluate the social and intellectual issues which arise when central claims of science and religion appear to challenge one another.

Course Requirements: Students will be expected (1) to read assigned selections prior to class; (2) participate in class discussion; (3) submit a final paper addressing a topic approved by the instructor no later than 4 weeks after the class. A “fair” and “open mind” is expected. That is to say: while you are neither required nor expected to understand everything you read, much less agree with anything you read, you are expected to attempt to understand what you read, appreciate the methodological difficulties involved, and fairly evaluate the claims advanced.

As an aid to comprehension of course material, questions to facilitate your reading and viewing will be handed out prior to the class and the film; the lecture-oriented part of the course will also be available to students in the form of class notes.

Grading Method: Class participation will count for 20% of the grade; viewing the film will count for 10%; the final paper will count for 70% (students are encouraged to submit drafts).

Course Outline: This course will be lecture *and* discussion oriented. The first part will consider the scientific and religious context of the “Copernican Revolution”—the switch from a geocentric to a heliocentric view of the structure of the universe—and the scientific and religious controversies it engendered. The second part will consider the Darwinian (or neo-Darwinian) challenge to religious ways of understanding humanity. Hermeneutical issues—ways of understanding religious texts—will be addressed and evaluated in both parts of the course.

Statement on Academic Misconduct: Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found guilty of an act of academic misconduct (including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or theft of an examination or supplies) may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the University, or being expelled from the University—or a combination of these. Please see Student Handbook at: <http://www.eou.edu/saffairs/handbook/honest.html>

Statement on Americans with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability or suspect that you have a learning problem and need accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Program in Loso Hall 234. Telephone 541-962-3081.

Syllabus Prepared By: Mark Webb

Date: updated 3/2009