

Moravian College
Rel. 293: Science and Theology: Darwin at 200
Dr. Falla

Class Period: MWF 10:20-11:10

Office Hours: Hamilton 205, MWF 11:30-12:30 and by appt.

Phone: X7827 (School), 610/432-8711 (W)

e-mail: mewsf01@moravian.edu

Course Description:

This course will examine the interface between Science and Theology with special emphasis on Charles Darwin from both a historical and contemporary perspective. Special emphasis will be placed on how this interaction has influenced our understanding of methodology, reality and how one ought to live his/her daily life.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To understand the history of the interaction of Darwinism and Theology with special emphasis on points of intersection and dissimilarity. It will be limited to Christian theology.
- 2) To become more conversant with these disciplines and their vocabularies.
- 3) To be able to critically analyze the positions being taken and the arguments made in this debate.
- 4) To understand the ways in which this interaction has helped to shape each discipline's content and methodology.
- 5) To understand the ramifications of this debate on life in the 21st Century for ourselves as individuals and as a society.

Required Texts:

Barbour, Ian, *Science and Religion*, Harper San Francisco, San Francisco, 1997

Haight, John, *God after Darwin*, Westview Press, Boulder CO, 2008

Miller, Kenneth, *Finding Darwin's God*, 2007

Additional Readings:

On reserve or available online in Reeves Library.

Evaluations

The following tools will be used for evaluation in this course:

Journal (25%): Each student is asked to keep a journal focusing on the contemporary social impact (personal and societal) of the current debate between science, theology and philosophy. You may use newspapers, magazines and the web as well as other reliable

sources and will serve as a resource for our class discussions. It should contain hard copies of these materials as well as your reflections on these materials and personal experiences.

Papers (30%): There will be three (3) 3-5 page reflection papers on questions raised by the materials due on the dates indicated. One of these papers will focus on the talk given by Dr. John Haught on October 16, 2009 as part of an Arts & Lecture talk in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the publication of *Origin of Species*. All these papers will be evaluated on the basis of your understanding and analysis of the materials and the quality of your argumentation and presentation. These too will serve as a basis for class discussion.

Final Research Paper and Discussion (25%): This 6-9 page research paper will be on how you see Darwinism impacting a major theme of Christianity or Judaism for good or ill. You may also write on a theme in this area chosen by you and approved by me. You will critically analyze your topic using Library resources including professional journals, books and approved Internet resources. The books and journals may be either hard or e-copy. Bibliographic instruction will be provided. The paper will be evaluated on your understanding of the course materials, the quality of your critical analysis and argumentation, as well as your writing style. This paper will serve as the basis your scheduled discussion with me in which we will discuss the results of your research and presentation. These discussions will be held during the last week of classes and exam week.

Class Participation (20%): The format for this class will be that of a seminar both attendance and active participation forms an important component of the class.

Grading Scale:

A: 92.5 +

A-: 89.5 – 92.4

B+: 87.5 - 89.4

B: 82.5 - 87.4

B-: 79.5 – 82.4

Honor Code and Attendance Policies

Students are expected to regularly attend class. Attendance contributes to your class participation grade and therefore is important. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor and to insure that arrangements are made to make up all missed assignments or material. You are also expected to hand in all assignments on time. If you must be late with your work, you must make arrangements with the instructor prior to the due date. Failure to do so may result in the lowering of the grade for late submitted work.

Students have an obligation to exhibit honesty in all their work. You will be found to have violated this obligation if you plagiarize or cheat. Plagiarizing is presenting the work of others as one's own; cheating is taking, giving, or accepting illicit

advantage for any course work inside or outside the classroom. Any violation will result in the lowering of your grade.

Additional Aid/Consideration

Students with special situations that may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Center as soon as possible.

Preliminary Syllabus

Week of:

Aug.31: Introduction and History of the Debate I

Barbour: 3-32

Sept. 7: History of the Debate II

Barbour: pp. 33-48

Reserve Reading: Pannenberg, Wolfhart, "Problems between Science and Theology in Modern History", *Zygon*, vol. 41, no. 1, March 2006. (e-journal)

Sept. 14: Methodology and Epistemology I

Paper #1 Due 9/14

Barbour: pp. 77-105

Reserve Reading: Murphy, Nancey, "On the Role of Philosophy in the Theology-Science Debate", *Theology and Science*, vol.1, #1, April 2003. (on reserve)

Sept. 21: Methodology and Epistemology II

Barbour: pp. 106-136

Sept. 28: Methodology and Epistemology III

Paper #2 Due 9/30

Barbour: pp. 137-161

Reserve Readings: Solkice, Janet, "Knowledge and Experience in Science and Religion", in *Physics, Philosophy and Theology*, R. J. Russell et.al., editors, Specola Vaticana, 1988. (on reserve)

Oct. 5: Darwinism in the 19th Century.

Barbour: pp. 49-76

Reserve Reading: Easley, Loren, Charles Darwin in *Scientific Genius and Creativity*, Scientific American Readings, 1987. (on reserve)

Oct. 12: Darwinism to Neo-Darwinism:1900-1950 **Haught Lecture: 10/16 7:30 PM**

Barbour: pp. 221-249

Haught: pp. 1-24

Oct. 19: Modern Debate I

Miller: pp. 1-56
Haught: pp. 13-24

Paper #3 Due 10/23

Oct. 26: Modern Debate II

Miller: pp. 57-128
Haught: pp. 61-86

Nov. 2: Modern Debate III

Barbour: pp. 253-280
Miller: pp. 129-164
Reserved Reading: van Huyssteen, J. Wentzel, "Fallen Angels or Rising Beasts? Theological Perspectives on Human Uniqueness", *Theology and Science*, Vol.1, #1, October 2003. (on reserve)

Nov. 9: Christian Theology after Darwin I

Miller: pp. 165-191
Haught: pp. 25-60

Journal Due 11/13

Nov. 16: Christian Theology after Darwin II

Miller: pp. 192-219
Haught: pp. 61-112

Nov. 23: Christian Theology after Darwin III

Miller: pp. 220-259
Haught: pp. 113-152

Nov. 30: Christian Theology after Darwin IV

Haught: pp. 153-193

Research Paper Due 12/2

Dec. 7: Final Meetings