



AMBROSE

PH 300 Science and Christianity Winter 2013

Time: Wednesday & Friday 11:15 – 12:30

Location: A2210

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Course Description

This course seeks a rapprochement between philosophy of science and philosophy of religion. The course explores the foundational questions of both fields of philosophical inquiry and examines both the tensions and the congruities. Can (does) science inform religion and can (does) religion inform science? While the obvious answer to this conjunction of questions seems 'yes', careful analysis must accompany, indeed constitute, the solutions. Particular attention will be given to the more specifically Christian contributions and issues related to philosophy of science and philosophy of religion.

Course Objectives

This course has three main objectives: to understand the nature of scientific reasoning and how that model has shaped and influenced our intellectual culture; to examine the ways in which science and Christian thought relate; and to evaluate the challenge of modern scientific theories and discoveries, including evolutionary biology, modern cosmology, and biotechnologies.

Textbooks

Godfrey-Smith, Peter. *Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Plantinga, Alvin. *Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science, Religion, and Naturalism*. Oxford University Press, 2011.

Recommended Textbook

Vaughn, Lewis, & McIntosh, Jillian Scott. *Writing Philosophy: A Guide for Canadian Students*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance and Participation** 10%
 - Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students are expected to attend each class session **with assigned text material and an engaged frame of mind**. Students should be prepared to contribute meaningful conversation to the topics under discussion. **Each absence from class merits an immediate .5% deduction** and class participation is assessed on the balance. For example, if a student misses two classes and generally participates excellently in class he or she generally cannot achieve more than 9/10 for this portion of his or her grade. **Students in class without text material and otherwise engaged in non-class activities are simply in the same room and may be assessed as absent**. Students who miss no more than two lectures with demonstrably good reasons (e.g., athletic participation) will have their participation assessed on the basis of 10/10.
 - Students who **arrive late to class** or leave early may be marked as absent. As a general rule **two late arrivals or early departures** will amount to one absence. This policy includes mid-class “breaks.”
 - If students miss, without sufficient excuse, **six** classes the highest grade they can hope to achieve in the course, regardless of performance, is a “C” (2.0).
 - If students miss, without sufficient excuse, **eight** classes the highest grade they can hope to achieve in the course, regardless of performance, is a “D+” (1.3).
 - Students *may* enhance their participation grade by contributing commentary and analysis to online discussion forums.

2. **Research Paper # 1**
 - Due: Friday, February 15th @ 4:00 PM 20%
 - A separate document regarding topics, format guidelines, and late policy will be sent to student e-mails and/or be posted on Moodle.

3. **Research Paper # 2** 30%
 - Due: Monday, April 8th @ 4:00 PM
 - A separate document regarding topics, format guidelines, and late policy will be sent to student e-mails and/or be posted on Moodle.

4. **Final Exam** 40%
 - Monday, April 15th @ 9:00 AM
 - **Students must pass the final exam** to ensure a passing grade in the course. A student who performs well during the term but fails the final exam may fail the course.
 - Students should refrain from scheduling flights or travel of any sort that will conflict with the Final Examination schedule. Final examinations will not be rescheduled to accommodate travel arrangements

Grading:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A+	4.0		96-100 %
A	4.0	Exceptional	91-95 %
A-	3.7		86-90 %
B+	3.3		82-85 %
B	3.0	Exceeds Expectations	75-81 %
B-	2.7		72-74 %
C+	2.3		68-71 %
C	2.0	Meets Expectations	63-67 %
C-	1.7		60-62 %
D+	1.3		56-59 %
D	1.0	Minimal Pass	50-55 %
F	0.0	Failure	49 < %

Important Dates

- Last day to enter a course without permission, withdraw from course and receive tuition refund, and change from credit to audit is January 20th @ 11:59 PM.
- Last day to request revised time for a final examination is March 4th.
- Last day to withdraw from courses without academic penalty is March 22nd.

Important Notes

- Students are responsible to check the Moodle course site and their Ambrose e-mail accounts regularly. E-mail may be used to notify students of cancelled classes or other important details relating to the course.
- Use of cell phones, recording devices, head phones, and all other non-essential technology is **prohibited**. **Text messaging** during class is prohibited.
- Phones must be put away during class.
- **Lap top computers, I-pads, tablets, etc., are prohibited** from general use during class. Exceptions may be made on an individual basis for students with relevant disabilities and needs. Students wanting to use lap tops in class must discuss this with me personally. Lap tops used for purposes unrelated to taking lecture notes are prohibited.
- Students are expected to respect the learning environment of the classroom. Make every attempt to be on time and to remain seated until the class session ends. Keep unnecessary conversations to a minimum as they are distracting to both the instructor and fellow classmates.
- *Ambrose is committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.*
- *Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information*

- collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.
- Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."
 - Students are advised to retain a copy of this syllabus for their records.

Class Dates

JAN 9
JAN 11

JAN 16
JAN 18

JAN 23 NOMA & Spheres of Expertise
JAN 25 Objective/Subjective Distinction

JAN 30
FEB 1

FEB 6
FEB 8

FEB 13
FEB 15 Due: Research Paper # 1

FEB 20 READING WEEK
FEB 22 READING WEEK

FEB 27 NO CLASS
MAR 1

MAR 6
MAR 8

MAR 13
MAR 15

MAR 20
MAR 22

MAR 27 NO CLASS
MAR 29

APR 3
APR 5

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April 8 – Due: Research Paper # 2
April 15th Final Exam