

INDS 555: Religion and the Rise of Science

Peter Harrison

May 13 - 17, 2019; 8:30 - 11:30 am

1 or 2 graduate credit hours; 1 audit hour

COURSE DESCRIPTION

It is often assumed, on the basis of contemporary controversies, that science and religion have always been in an oppositional relationship, and that conflict between them is inevitable. In this course we will consider the long history of science-religion relationships, exploring the ways in which religious factors played a positive role in the emergence of modern science, and were important in establishing a permanent and prominent place for scientific activity at the heart of modern Western culture. The course will take in key historical episodes such as the Galileo affair, the publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species*, and the nineteenth-century invention of the conflict thesis—all with a view to seeing how historical insights can provide resources for helping understand present relations between science and religion.

SPECIAL NOTE

There is daily reading for this course, and reading summaries due each day including the first day. Students are encouraged to read ahead.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should have a clearer understanding of:

1. Understand and articulate the different ways in which Christianity played a role in the emergence of modern science.
2. Identify key secondary sources on the history of science-religion relations, and critically appraise their central arguments.
3. Recognise standard myths that continue to dominate common understandings of the historical and present relations between science and religion.
4. Identify ways that human families are affected by technology and ways that they can mitigate its harmful effects and benefit from its promise.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1 The Boundaries of Science & Religion

Day 2 The Bible and the Rise of Science

Day 3 God and the Laws of Nature

Day 4 Exemplars of Conflict: Galileo and Darwin

Day 5 History and the Contemporary Debates

REQUIRED TEXTS

Dixon, Thomas, *Science and Religion: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008)

Harrison, Peter, *The Territories of Science and Religion* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015)

All prices subject to change without notice. Please note that the Regent College Bookstore offers a 20% discount on regularly priced books (some exceptions may apply).

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: moodle.regent-college.edu/login

