Both religious myths and scientific models are designed to provide an understanding of otherwise chaotic worlds. This course comprises a humanistic exploration of the modes of thought underlying religious myth-making and scientific model-construction. Particular attention is given to similarities and differences between scientific knowledge and religious thought. Are scientific discoveries more trustworthy than the doctrines found in religious text? Can we find wisdom from both scientists and religious thinkers? Is it conceivable that some cases of scientific knowledge actually support certain religious doctrines? Can science and religion coexist in peace or is this relationship in perpetual conflict? These questions have occupied the thoughts, and defined the lives, of some of the world’s great minds. And, these questions have relevance for contemporary society. For example, should high school science classes include a segment on Creationism as presented in the Book of Genesis? In the area of health care, should the religious beliefs of a hospital’s medical staff influence treatment that they give for terminally ill patients? The recent case of Terry Schiavo raised this question, and the questions associated with her medical condition are relevant to many patients today.

This is an 8-week format. If you have experienced 15-week formats, you can expect the 8-week format to be nearly double the workload of a 15-week format.

Prerequisite(s)
None

Course Outline:

The purpose of this course is to explore the complex interaction of religion and science in the modern world. Specifically, students will:

- Explore the historical contexts in which the tension between science and religion has developed
- Analyze competing models of science/religion interaction
- Explore the role of philosophy as a mediating discipline between science and religion, with particular reference to philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God
- Compare and contrast the role of models, analogies, and metaphors in science and myth in religion, and
- Compare and contrast the role of experiment in testing scientific theory and ritual in reproducing religious myth

Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. explain the questions, problems, and challenges that comprise the science/religion debates
2. identify, explain, and evaluate the central arguments in the science/religion debates (General Education requirement #3)
3. explain the similarities among and differences between scientific thinking and religious belief
4. take and defend an independent position on some aspect of the science and religion debates

This course meets the following general education requirements:

- read analytically and critically in a range of fields
- develop cohesive arguments using appropriate supporting evidence
- discuss a major theme in ethics, philosophy, religion, or spirituality in an academic paper or presentation (General Education requirement #3)
Course Schedule

Weeks start on Monday, 12:01 AM ET and end on Sunday, 11:59 PM ET, US.

Unless otherwise noted, all assigned items are due at the end of the module (by 11:59PM, Sunday).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Module &amp; Title</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Online Discussions</th>
<th>Course Outcomes Related to this Module</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Module 1: Historical Influences on the Relationship between Science and Religion</td>
<td>McGrath, Chapters 1-6</td>
<td>Submit M1A1: Research Topic for Projects 3 and 4</td>
<td>Welcome and Introductions Historical Episodes and the Warfare Model</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Module 2: Proofs of God’s Existence and the Methods of Science</td>
<td>McGrath, Chapters 7-10</td>
<td>M2A1: Analysis Paper 1</td>
<td>Rational Proof: Religion and Science</td>
<td>2, 3, &amp; 5</td>
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| | | | | | }
| Week 3 | Module 3: Natural Theology | McGrath, Chapters 11-12, 14 | Submit M3A1: Revised Research Paper Question and Preliminary Bibliography | Natural and Revealed Theology | 1, 2, 4, & 6 |
| | | | | | }
| Week 4 | Module 4: Models, Metaphor, and Analogy in Science and Religion | McGrath, Chapters 13, 15-17 | Submit M4A1: Midterm Essay Exam | Metaphors and Analogies: Common Ground? | 1, 2, & 3 |
| | | | | | }
| Week 5 | Module 5: Cosmology, and Biology, and Quantum Mechanics, Oh My | McGrath, Chapters 19 and 21 | Submit M5A1: Analysis Paper Two | Theological Implications | 1, 2, 3, & 6 |
| | | | | | }
| Week 6 | Module 6: Psychology and Religion | McGrath, Chapters 22-24 | Submit M6A1: Annotated Bibliography | Evolutionary Psychology | 1, 2, 3, & 4 |
| | | | | | }
| Week 7 | Module 7: The New Atheism | Read McGrath, Chapter 18, and at least three chapters from 25 - 34 | Submit M7A1: Research Paper | Arguments of Richard Dawkins | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 |
| | | | | | }
| Week 8 | Module 8: Case Studies in Science and Religion | Review Course Readings | Submit M8A1: Final Essay Exam | Science and Religion Case Studies | 1, 2, & 3 |
Evaluation

Grade Ranges
A=90-100%
B=80-89%
C=70-79%
D=60-69%
F=below 60%

Breakdown

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis Paper 1</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis Paper 2</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay Examination</td>
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Criteria

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Activities:

Before beginning your course work, be sure to review the Excelsior College Guidelines for Online Interaction (http://www.excelsior.edu/netiquette) (a.k.a. Online Etiquette or "Netiquette"). If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please feel free to direct them to your instructor. All student work in this course may be submitted to plagiarism detection software.

Analysis Paper 1 - 5%
Prepare a brief (3-5 pages) paper in response to one of the following questions:

Identify the various models of interaction between science and religion and discuss their relative merits. Which approach do you think is most adequate? Consider this question both from a descriptive standpoint (which model best describes the way in which science and religion currently relate to each other) and normatively (how science and religion should relate to each other). Explain/justify

In addition to the textbook, you must use two other scholarly sources, properly cited in APA format.

Be sure to submit your project in one WORD document in APA format and place it in the appropriate assignment dropbox.

For additional information on how your work will be graded, see the writing rubric.

Analysis Paper 2 - 5%
Prepare a brief (3-5 pages) paper in response to one of the following questions:

Read chapter 17 in the textbook. Choose two religions, one western (Judaism or Islam) and one Eastern (Hinduism or Buddhism).
Discuss the relationship each religion has with science. Which of the four models of interaction best apply between science and each religion? What can Christianity learn about its own relationship to science by considering the approach of these other religions?

In addition to the textbook, you must use two other scholarly sources, properly cited in APA format.

Be sure to submit your project in one WORD document in APA format and place it in the appropriate assignment dropbox.

For additional information on how your work will be graded, see the writing rubric.

Annotated Bibliography - 15%
Develop an Annotated Bibliography by gathering 15 specific sources on an approved research topic. You will submit the topic in Module 1, revise it in response to your instructor's comments, and submit a preliminary list of sources in Module 3.

The Annotated Bibliography itself will be due at the end of Module 6.

Some detailed guidance is:

1. 15 valid, academic sources (books, journal articles, and websites)
2. Annotations must be 3 to 5 complete English sentences.
3. APA citation of each source = last name and then first, middle names initials only; no PhDs, MDs, Drs, or other title
4. Citations must have complete information. See - Purdue:OWL (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html) for help with APA.
5. All sources must be alphabetized by author's last name.
6. When using an article from a database where no author is noted, alphabetize by the article title. Example: if you use "Secularization" from The Dictionary of Ethics, Theology and Society, you put up front "Secularization" and alphabetize by it also.
7. There should be a space between Citation and Annotation (which is your summary, paraphrase of the source). Do not put direct quotes here. You are to paraphrase and then synthesize the source into 3 to 5 sentences of your own words.
8. APA format does not use p. for page or pp. for pages, just numbers; and APA does not use VOL., etc. See - Purdue: OWL (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html) for help with APA.
9. There must be a cover/title page that follows APA format.
10. Ensure that punctuation, grammar, and spelling are correct in citations and annotations.
11. Web or Internet citation, see example: Two dates— one for publication and one for the retrieval date. Check out Purdue: OWL (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html) for help with APA format.
12. Do NOT use Wikipedia or other encyclopedias, especially those that are not moderated by scholars. Concentrate on scholarly books and journal articles, with journalistic sources playing at most a supporting role. Remember that your sources should be sociological and not theological.

Be sure to submit your project in one WORD document in APA format and place it in the appropriate assignment drop box.

For additional information on how your work will be graded, see the writing rubric.

Research Paper - 20%
Write a Research Paper on your approved selected research topic (Module 1) by using your sources gathered for the Annotated Bibliography.

The paper is due at the end of Module 7.

- Use the Annotated Bibliography as a building block for the Research Paper (DRP). You are writing a research paper on the same topic you selected in Module 1, as revised during Module 3, using at least 6-8 sources from your Annotated Bibliography.
- The Research Paper needs to be 6 to 8 pages of text, not including title page, abstract, table of contents, and references.
- Remember that you must document your writing. You must paraphrase and cite sources internally. See the attached example; for APA format, refer to - Purdue: OWL (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html).

Be sure to submit your project in one WORD document in APA format and place it in the appropriate assignment drop box.

For additional information on how your work will be graded, see the writing rubric.
Midterm Examination - 15%
Your Midterm Examination will consist of 2 essay questions.

This examination will be available for you to take beginning at 12:00 AM EST on the Monday morning of Module 4 and will close promptly the following Sunday evening at 11:55 PM EST.

It is suggested that you write or print out the essay questions for handy reference as you develop your responses.

Be sure to submit your essay exam in one WORD document and place it in the appropriate assignment drop box.

For additional information on how your work will be graded, see the writing rubric.

Final Essay Examination - 15%
Your Final Examination in Module 8 will consist of 3 essay questions, which you must answer to the best of your ability.

This examination will be available for you to take beginning at 12:00 AM EST on the Monday morning of Module 8 and will close promptly the following Sunday evening at 11:55 PM EST.

Although there is no set word limit for your answers, we require that you fully explain your responses.

You should write roughly 500 words for each essay as a comprehensive response.

The Final Exam is due by the end of Module 8. Worth 15% of your final grade.

In addition to the textbook, you must use two other scholarly sources, properly cited in APA format.

For additional information on how your work will be graded, see the writing rubric.

Discussion Participation - 25%
You are required to complete each discussion board question during the module in which it is located.

When posting your discussion comments, it is important that you be both honest and respectful to the ideas and comments of your fellow students. Students need to remember that the discussion postings take place in an open forum. Please refrain from vulgar, racial, sexist or any other remarks or comments that an individual might deem to be offensive.

For additional information on how your work will be graded, see the discussion rubric.

By registering for a web-based course, you have made a commitment to participate regularly with your instructor and other students in online discussions. You will be expected to use online course tools (Discussions and Chat rooms) to interact with your peers and work collaboratively to improve your understanding of underlying course ideas and issues.

To lessen the risk of losing your work, do not write major discussions directly into a discussion posting. Instead, compose and check your work in other software (such as Microsoft Word) and then use the Create Message button and copy and paste your text into the new posting.

FORMATTING AND STYLE FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

Unless noted in the Syllabus, Excelsior College requires that all papers, projects, charts, etc. be submitted using the APA writing style.

Course Policies

School of Liberal Arts Late Policy:
- No exams or quizzes will be accepted after the due date.
- Discussion posts must be completed within the module where they appear. Late discussion posts will not receive credit. Instructors may impose additional due dates for initial posts or responses and assess late penalties accordingly.
- All graded assignments (e.g., projects, papers, homework, lab reports) submitted after the designated due date/time will be assessed a late penalty of five percent per day for the first 5 days (for example, -5 points each day on a 100 point assignment, or -2.5 points each day on a 50 point assignment). Any assignment submitted after the fifth day will receive a grade of zero.
• No work will be accepted after the final day of the term unless an official course extension has been granted.
• Situations involving extenuating circumstances will be considered at the discretion of the instructor.

Turnitin.com:

Excelsior College subscribes to Turnitin.com, the world's largest plagiarism-detection service, and reserves the right to check all student work to verify that it meets the guidelines of this policy.

Institutional Policies

COURSE PARTICIPATION:

Weekly course participation is required. Please see the Student Participation Policy for more details.

Instructor Participation

Your instructor will:
• Post a welcome message during the first 24 hours of the course.
• Schedule real time office hours through the chat room and/or by individual appointment.
• Communicate with you through the Blackboard communication tools, including internal course messaging.
• Respond to student communications within two business days.
• Log into the course to review and participate at least three different days a week in 15-week courses, or four different days a week in 8-week courses.
• Provide you with formative feedback midway through the course based on work submitted to that point.
• Grade all formative assignments within 7 business days in 15-week courses and 4 business days in 8-week courses, and will grade final summative work within 5 business days after the end of the term.

POLICIES

You are responsible for being familiar with all the policies that are related to your activity in this course. Complete information on Excelsior College policies can be found in the Course Information area or by visiting www.excelsior.edu/policies.

All student work in this course may be submitted to plagiarism detection software. The reports from this software may be used as evidence in support of disciplinary actions. Please see the policy on Academic Honesty for more details.