

Science and Religion

Course Number: GENS4010

Instructor: Robert Stenning

Introduction

Many people believe that Scientific and Religious views will inevitably conflict and there has been a long history of this. We believe that harmony can be found between the two disciplines of science and theology and we will explore this in some of its most modern expressions; these can be seen in the list of topics for the lectures and tutorials.

In presenting a subject like this there are dangers because inevitably some of your cherished beliefs will be challenged. (During preparation some of my beliefs have been challenged: I had not reckoned on the possibility of the evolution of consciousness). We should all try to be sensitive about this, being prepared to present and argue our ideas in a logical fashion, as befitting University Study. We should also be prepared to listen to and try to understand other people's ideas, especially when they conflict with our own.

Session 1 - 2002, Mondays 6-8 pm.

To prepare for your tutorial each week you should:

- * Read the "readings" and make notes on them, perhaps in your Journal. In particular make notes of questions you want to ask the Tutor in case there are some things you don't understand.

- * Think about the listed Tutorial questions and maybe write brief answers so you are able to contribute to the discussion.

- * Each week two students will combine to give a small introduction. Both students should speak about equal time and the TOTAL time for both together should be 10 to 15 minutes. Note that this is an introduction, not merely the presenters' answers to the tutorial questions (these are designed for the

class to discuss). Your presentation will be graded both on the material it contains and on the way it is presented.

* Don't be afraid to state your opinions or to ask questions about things you don't understand! This is a University and all opinions, intelligently argued, will be respected.

* The lecture preceding the Tutorial (in OMB112) will discuss a topic in the same area as the Tutorial.

March 4

Tute 0

Introduction

March 11

Tute 1

Doing Science and Doing Theology

March 18

Tute 2

Historical Interactions

March 25

Tute 3

Is the Bible true?

April 8

Tute 4

Creation

April 15

Tute 5

Chaos

April 22

Tute 6

Evolution

April 29

Tute 8

Prayer

May 6

Tute 9

Miracles

May 13

Tute 10

Mind and Consciousness

May 20

Tute 11

The Environment

May 27

Tute 12

Bioethics

June 3

Tute 13

The End of the Universe

[Tutorial 7 on Providence and Suffering has been omitted on account of the Queen's Birthday Holiday]

Some References

- * References to further information

Links

- * Links to further information

Additional Material

Additional resources which you may find useful in studying GENS4010, Science and Religion.

- * The Tao of Physics

Contact

- * Associate Professor Robert J. Stening