



# NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

## ISSUES IN SCIENCE AND RELIGION (formerly Science, Religion & Nature)

- Course:** IDS-2220, 3 credit hours, Interdisciplinary studies, Humanities credit.
- Instructor:** Dr. Jon Bryan, S-105 (Science Bld.); Ph: (850) 729-5246, [bryanj@nwfsc.edu](mailto:bryanj@nwfsc.edu).
- Description:** This course explores and relates both scientific and religious conceptions of the natural world with the goal of integrating and harmonizing scientific and religious understandings to develop a meaningful and informative, contemporary worldview.
- Texts:** Campbell, HA, and Looy, H, 2009, *A Science and Religion Primer*. Baker Academic;  
van Huyssteen, JW, and Chamcham, K, 2012, *The Templeton Science and Religion Reader*. Templeton Press;  
Eliade, M, 1959, *The Sacred & the Profane – The Nature of Religion*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.;  
Other assigned readings.

### Part I – Introduction/Conceptual Issues/Historical Framework

Intro to Course/ Ian Barbour's 4-Fold Typology for Relating S & R/Definitions and Overview of Critical Issues/Student Questions & Concerns

The Nature of Science, The Nature of Religion – Comparison & Critique/ Types of Religious Experience/Concepts of God and Divine Action, Discussion of "Does Science Make Belief in God Obsolete?"

Historic Conceptions of Nature/ Ancient and Medieval Cosmology/ The Scientific Revolution – Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Kepler, *et al.*/ Religious Views of Famous Scientists/ Discussion of "Does Science Make Belief in God Obsolete?"

### Part II – The Idea of Nature: Challenges of the Natural Sciences

An Immense and Expanding Universe – Cosmology & the Prospect of Astrobiology (*Responsory* – Fine Tuning and the Anthropic Cosmological Principle), Discussion of "Does the Universe have a Purpose?"

An Ancient and Evolving Earth – Geology, Paleontology, Global Change (*Responsory* – Theories of the Earth, Gaia, Earth as a System)

**Exam 1** (*Introductory Material, Conceptual Issues, History of S&R, etc.*)

The Origin and Extinction of Life – Evolutionary Biology/ Ecology (*Responsory* – Theodicy & the Problem of Pain, Deep Ecology, Ecofeminism, Ecotheology, Biophilia, etc.)

Meat Computers or Haunted Machines? – Medicine, Neuroscience, Technology, Trans- and Post-humanism (*Responsory* – The Meaning of Embodied Humanity)

The Meaning of Math (*Responsory* – The Meaning of Symmetry, Beauty, Logic)

**Exam 2** (Challenges of the Natural Sciences)/TBA

### Part III – The Idea of the Holy: The Metascientific Vision of Religion

The Logic of Religion – Discussion of *The Sacred & the Profane* 1

The Logic of Religion – Discussion of *The Sacred & the Profane* 2

Biblical Interpretation/Creationism/Intelligent Design

Natural Theology/Theology of Nature

Presentations and Discussion of Student Research (summary page for all in class)

**Final Exam**