

HPSC20020 God and the Natural Sciences

Credit Points:	12.5
Level:	2 (Undergraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2015, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 1, Parkville - Taught on campus.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: Two 1-hour lectures each week and 1x 1-hour tutorial for 11 weeks Total Time Commitment: 170 hours
Prerequisites:	None
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	None
Non Allowed Subjects:	None
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements of this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements. Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/
Coordinator:	Dr Kristian Camilleri
Contact:	<u>Dr Kristian Camilleri</u> (http://hps.unimelb.edu.au/about/staff/camilleri/) <u>kcam@unimelb.edu.au</u> (mailto:kcam@unimelb.edu.au)
Subject Overview:	Recent popular debates over the relationship between science and religion have too often denegated into shouted polemics between religious fundamentalists and new atheists. Yet many of the really important historical, philosophical and theological questions call for more careful scholarly attention. This subject examines the complex relationship between religion and the natural sciences. Historically, religious concerns guided the science of Kepler, Newton and many other pioneers of the Scientific Revolution. For them, studying the universe demonstrated the attributes of God. This view was eventually replaced by radically different ones: to some science and religion are necessarily antagonistic, to others they belong to separate realms, while others still see a mutually illuminating consonance between the two. We examine this shift, the reasoning (good and bad) behind it and its residues, and the way these views have shaped contemporary debates over God and the natural sciences. In the second half of the subject, we explore some of the metaphysical, theological and existential questions arising from Darwinian evolutionary and modern cosmology, before offering some final reflections on the relationship between the 'personal God' of religious experience and the 'philosophers God' posited to explain facts about the natural world.
Learning Outcomes:	Students who successfully complete this subject will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # arrive at a deeper understanding of the complex historical relationship between religion, theology and the natural sciences, particularly in the early modern period and the nineteenth century; # develop an increased ability to systematically think about philosophical questions raised by modern science and religion; # acquire a deeper understanding of some of the contemporary philosophical debates in cosmology, evolutionary biology and neuroscience; # acquire experience of thinking systematically about difficult intellectual problems of an abstract nature; # develop the ability to conduct independent research, speaking and writing clearly and reading carefully;

	# acquire experience with methods of critical analysis and argument, leading to improved general reasoning and analytical skills
Assessment:	Two take-home 1000 word written assignments, 25% each (due in week 7 and week 12) and a 2000 word final essay, 50% (due in the examination period). Hurdle requirement: students must attend a minimum of 75% of tutorials in order to pass this subject. Regular participation in tutorials is required. Assessment submitted late without an approved extension will be penalised at 10% per day; after five working days, late assessment will not be marked. In-class tasks missed without approval will not be marked. All pieces of written work must be submitted to pass this subject.
Prescribed Texts:	A subject reader will be available online Science and Religion: A Historical Introduction (Ed. by Ferrigan)
Breadth Options:	<p>This subject potentially can be taken as a breadth subject component for the following courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Bachelor of Biomedicine (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2015/B-BMED) # Bachelor of Commerce (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2015/B-COM) # Bachelor of Environments (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2015/B-ENVS) # Bachelor of Music (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2015/B-MUS) # Bachelor of Science (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2015/B-SCI) # Bachelor of Engineering (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2015/B-ENG) <p>You should visit learn more about breadth subjects (http://breadth.unimelb.edu.au/breadth/info/index.html) and read the breadth requirements for your degree, and should discuss your choice with your student adviser, before deciding on your subjects.</p>
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Links to further information:	http://hps.unimelb.edu.au/
Related Majors/Minors/Specialisations:	<p>History and Philosophy of Science History and Philosophy of Science History and Philosophy of Science Philosophy Philosophy Major</p>
Related Breadth Track(s):	Science and its Margins