



Module: Astrobiology, Astrotheology, and Contact with ETI

Science Module for existing university or seminary level courses.

Drop in to a course syllabus (with modifications) in

Astronomy or Astrobiology

Christian Education

Systematic Theology: Creation, Anthropology

1 week's assignment for 3 hours of class meeting

ASTROBIOLOGY, ASTROTHEOLOGY & CONTACT WITH ETI

Outer space vibrates with spiritual meaning within the human soul. Astronomy and astrobiology along with related space sciences thrill us with expectations and even hopes of finding microbial life within our solar system and intelligent life on exoplanets elsewhere in the Milky Way. If we earthlings find that we share our universe with other living neighbors in space, how will this impact our theology of creation and the human condition?

This unit introduces the cross-over discipline of Astrotheology. *Astrotheology is that branch of theology which provides a critical analysis of the contemporary space sciences combined with an explication of classic doctrines such as creation and Christology for the purpose of constructing a comprehensive and meaningful understanding of our human situation within an astonishingly immense cosmos.* The agenda of astrotheology asks: (1) Will confirmation of ETI cause terrestrial

religion to collapse? (2) Can the scope of God's creation include the entire cosmos? (3) What can we expect when we encounter ETI? Should we take UFOs seriously? (5) How can religious leaders prepare theologically and ethically to greet our new space neighbors?

DLO (Desired Learning Outcomes)

Added to the set of DLOs for the entire course. The student should also demonstrate...

1. knowledge of basic agenda of Astrobiology and Astrotheology;
2. ability to describe issues at stake;
3. awareness of theological and ethical implications.

REQUIRED READING

Peters, Ted, "Astrotheology," Chapter 72 of *The Routledge Companion to Modern Christian Thought*, ed. Chad Meister and James Beilby. London and New York: Routledge, 2013, pp. 838-853;
<http://tedstimelytake.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/2013-Astrotheology-Peters-Routledge.pdf>
OR, "Introducing Astrotheology"
<http://tedstimelytake.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/AstrotheologyPETERS.pdf>

Peters, Ted, "Twelve Ethical Issues in Exploring Our Solar Ghetto"
<http://tedstimelytake.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/12AstroEthics.pdf>

RFECOMMENDED READING

Paul Davies, "E.T. and God," AAAS/DoSER website

<file:///C:/Users/Ted/Downloads/E.T.%20and%20God.pdf>

David Wilkinson, *Science, Religion, and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence*.
Oxford UK: Oxford University Press 2013.

RCRS: *The Routledge Companion to Religion and*

Science, eds., James W. Haag, Gregory R. Peterson, and Michael L. Spezio. London: Routledge, 2012.
ISBN 978-0-415-49244-7 (hbk) or 978-0-203-80351-6 (ebk).

This comprehensive volume is valuable for almost all modules.

RCRS 10 Grace Wolf-Chase, "Astronomy: From star gazing to astrobiology"

RCRS 11 Gerald James Larson, "Hindu cosmogony/cosmology"

RCRS 13 Antje Jackelén, "Cosmology and theology"

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

NASA Astrobiology Strategy:

https://nai.nasa.gov/media/medialibrary/2016/04/NASA_Astrobiology_Strategy_2015_FINAL_041216.pdf

SETI Institute, <http://www.seti.org/>

METI, meti.org

CTNS Website: ctns.org

Ted Peters' Website: TedsTimelyTake.com

Biologos: <http://biologos.org/blogs/chris-stump-equipping-educators/series/this-week-in-creation>