



Big History Course (Complete)

This is not a module. Rather, this skeletal syllabus suggests how to structure an existing or new course in Big History. It may also be valuable for an introduction to Humanities or even Evolutionary Biology. What we offer here is a basic description of the entire course, including the specific drop-ins dealing with the question of God within a scientific account of natural and human history.

BIG HISTORY

The course description for the entire course might look like this:

This course on Big History will place World History and the question of God within the larger setting of Big Bang cosmology, evolution, and the future of Planet Earth. Beginning with the Big Bang nearly 13.8 billion years ago, the story Big History tells is an evidence-based account of emergent complexity, with simpler components combining into new units with new properties and greater energy flows. Nature has a history, just as the human race has a history. And what happens in nature exerts a big impact on what happens in the course of human events and the evolution of human consciousness. Within this framework, this Big History course will ask the question of God just as did our ancestors in China, India, Israel, and Greece during the first millennium before the common era. Studying history is a sure way to study what goes on within the student's own mind.

DLO (Desired Learning Outcomes)

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

1. knowledge of the story of the cosmos as Big History tells it;
2. rudimentary knowledge of the Axial Age and its religious insights;
3. awareness of reasons how the experience of transcendence forms the human soul.

REQUIRED READING for the entire course.

Christian, David, Cynthia Stokes Brown, and Craig Benjamin, *Big History: Between Nothing and Everything*. New York: MacGraw Hill, 2014.

Peters, Ted, *God in Cosmic History: Where Science and History Meet Religion*. Winona WI: Anselm Academic, 2017.

Notice in the table of contents of *Big History* how this basic text is organized according to historical thresholds. Construct the course syllabus according to the progression of this text and simply add relevant chapters from *God in Cosmic History*. Here are some examples for a syllabus.

SKELETON of the SYLLABUS STRUCTURE.

Unit 1

Big History, Chapters 1,2,
God in Cosmic History, Chapters 1,2,3

Unit 2

Big History, Chapter 3,4
God in Cosmic History, Chapters 4,5,6

Unit 3

Paul Davies, "Universes Galore: Where Will It All End?" AAAS/DoSER website:
file:///C:/Users/Ted/Downloads/Universes%20Galore%20Where%20Will%20it%20All%20End.pdf
God in Big History, Chapters 10,11

Unit 4

Big History, Chapter 5,6,
God in Cosmic History, Chapters 7,8,9,12

Unit 5

Big History, Chapters 7,8,9,
God in Cosmic History, Chapters 13,14,15,16

Unit 6

Big History, Chapters 10,11
God in Big History, Chapters 17,18,19,20

Unit 7

Big History, Chapters 12,13
God in Big History, Chapters 21,22

WEB RESOURCES ARE RICH. ADD SOME TO CLASS SESSIONS.

Visit the International Big History Association website for excellent additional resources.
<http://www.ibhanet.org/>

"Cosmos: A Space-Time Odyssey 2014." <http://geektv.me/watch-online/cosmos-a-space-time-odyssey>.

Narrated by physicist and educator Neil deGrasse Tyson, this made-for-television reiteration of Carl Sagan's series on the cosmos provides an informative visual treat. The big bang bangs on the screen, and the viewer relives cosmic history in this imaginative yet scientifically sound story.

"God and the Universe," Season 6, Episode 7, of "The Universe," The History Channel,
<http://www.history.com/shows/the-universe>

For humor, try *Monty Python Universe Song*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yq4uCWtQE24>.

Web Sources: "How the Earth Was Made." H, the History Channel. <http://www.history.com/shows/how-the-earth-was-made>.

Ted Peters, "From Big History to Cosmic History," https://ibha.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Origins/Origins_VII_04.pdf.