

What is a Module Drop-Ins for a Courses Syllabus?



Dear Professor or Student of Science & Religion:

At the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS) we have for some time encouraged faculty in undergraduate institutions, seminaries, and university graduate programs to integrate the dialogue between Science and Religion into existing disciplinary teaching. Students both in the sciences and in Religious Studies or Theology would benefit with this broadening of horizons.

What we offer here is a number of individual *Modules* on selected topics which could easily be dropped-in an existing syllabus. In a 3-credit science course dealing with physical cosmology or evolutionary biology, for example, the faculty person could simply drop in a module on astrotheology or the evolution controversy. In a university or seminary setting, a professor of Hebrew Scriptures might select one or both of these same two modules as well. Each module is designed for one week's study out of a quarter or semester, whether the class meets once for three hours or twice for ninety minutes. Below is a list of the modules included here. Try one or two and let CTNS know how well it works: CTNS.org.

Introduction to the Science & Religion Dialogue
Animals in Science and Theology
Astrobiology, Astrotheology, and Contact with ETI
Big History (complete course)
Ecology & Ethics
The Evolution Controversy
Genetics, Stem Cells, CRISPR, and Bioethics
Islam and Science
Judaism and Science
Neuroscience & Theological Anthropology
Physics and Divine Action
Transhumanism: Theological Responses

Sample



Module

Introduction to the Science & Religion Dialogue

Science Module for existing university or seminary level courses.

Drop in to a course syllabus (with modifications) in

Cosmology or Evolutionary Biology

Homiletics

Religious Studies

Metaphysics: Epistemology

Introduction to Theology

Systematic Theology: Methodology

1 week's assignment for 3 hours of class meeting

WAYS OF RELATIONG SCIENCE & RELIGION

Is science at war with religion? It certainly looks like it. But, a closer examination will show that the situation is complicated. Genuine science is not at war with authentic religion. Scientism, a naturalistic ideology built on science, is certainly at war with all non-scientific forms of belief, including Christianity and other religious traditions. Nevertheless, individual religious adherents committed to Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and many classic religious traditions function every

day as research scientists, sometimes celebrating how the natural world sings poetically to its divine creator.

It will be illuminating to adumbrate eight ways or models that Science and Religion relate. Four fit the warfare image: (1) scientism, (2) scientific imperialism, (3) ecclesiastical authoritarianism, and the culture war over (4) evolution. Four others fit the non-warfare image: (5) the two books, (6) the two languages, (7) ethical cooperation, and (8) hypothetical consonance leading to creative mutual interaction.

DLO (Desired Learning Outcomes)

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

1. knowledge of alternative models for relating science with religion ;
2. ability to describe issues at stake;
3. awareness of non-warfare consonance and the prospects for a cooperative future.

REQUIRED READING

"Barbour's Typologies," <http://serc.carleton.edu/sp/library/sac/examples/barbour.html>

Peters, Ted, "Science in Seminary? Really? *Dialog* 54:2 (Sum 2015) 121-124.

<http://tedstimelytake.com/theological-briefs/>

Peters, Ted, "Science and Theology: Where Are We?" pp. 15-44 of *Science, Theology, Ethics*.

Ashgate 2003. ISBN 0-7546-0825-5 (PBK); 0-7546-0824-7 (HBK)

<http://tedstimelytake.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Peters-STE-1-SciRel-Models.pdf>

When God and Science Meet. <https://t.e2ma.net/webview/j9xfi/36778e147060057b34a5abce3b44fc9b>

RECOMMENDED READING (Select)

Barbour, Ian G., *When Science Meets Religion: Enemies, Strangers, or Partners?* New York: Harper, 2000. ISBN978-0-06-060381-6.

Peters, Ted, "In Memoriam: Ian Graeme Barbour (1923-2013)." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. 82:2 (June 2014) 307-312.

<http://jaar.oxfordjournals.org/content/82/2/307.full.pdf?keytype=ref&ijkey=zvqicMweLCVaLS6>

OHRs *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Science*, ed. by Philip Clayton and Zachary

Simpson. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

ISBN 0-19-9279278-6. Hardbound 2006 or Paperback 2008 okay.

This comprehensive volume is valuable for almost all modules.

OHRs 4 Polkinghorne, "Christianity and Science"

OHRs 5 Nasr, "Islam and Science"

OHRs 8 Atkins, "Atheism and Science"

OHRs 3 Samuelson, "Judaism and Science"

OHRs 5 Nasr, "Islam and Science"

OHRs 8 Atkins, "Atheism and Science"

ORRS 48 Stenmark, "Feminist..."

OHRs 22 Pannenberg, "Contributions from Systematic Theology"

OHN = *On Human Nature*, eds., Michel Tibayrenc and Francisco J. Ayala.
Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2017. ISBN 978-0-12-420190-3.

This comprehensive volume is valuable for Science classes.

OHN 21 M. Reimers and B. Oakley, "Empathy, Theory of Mind, Cognition, Morality, and Altruism"

OHN 30 J. Roughgarden, "Homosexuality and Evolution: A Critical Appraisal"

OHN 33 F.J. Ayala, "Human Evolution and Progress"

OHN 35 F.J. Ayala, "Adaptive Significance of Ethics and Aesthetics"

OHN 39 T. Borchert, "History and Diversity of Religion"

OHN 41, T. Peters, "Universal Humanity, Religious Particularity, and Scientific Reductionism"

Ted Peters with Gaymon Bennett and Kang Phee Seng, *Bridging Science and Religion*.

This anthology is available in multiple languages.

English: SCM Press 2002 and Fortress Press 2003.

Traditional Chinese, 科學與宗教 Chung Hwa Book Company, Ltd., in Hong Kong, 2003

Simplified Chinese, 橋 : 科學與宗教 China Social Sciences Press, Beijing, China, 2002

Portuguese, *Construindo Pontes Entre a Ciência ea Religião*

Translated by Luis Carlos Borges; Supervised by Eduardo Cruz

Edicoes Loyola in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2004

German, *Brücken bauen Naturwissenschaft und Religion*. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht in Goettingen, 2006

Indonesian Bahasa, *Menjembatani sains dan agama*

Forwards by Prof. Dr. H.M. Amim Abdullah and Pdt. Prof. E. Gerritt Singgih, Ph.D.

Translated by Jessica Christiania Pattinasarany. Gunung Mulia in Jakarta, Indonesia, 2004

Spanish, *Ciencia y religión en diálogo. Un puente en construcción* UPAEP in Pubela, Mexico, 2005.