

RELIGION AND SCIENCE

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

217 IH – Spring, 2012

Montana State University

T, Th, 11 am – 12:15 pm, Wilson Hall 1-119

office: Wilson 2-159

phone: 994-5200

Assistant: Derek Brouwer

Professor Lynda Sexson

3 credits, no prerequisites

office hours: 2 pm T, Th; appointments welcome

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e: derekb6464@gmail.com

QUESTIONS GIVE SHAPE TO ANSWERS.

How would you rename this course?

Why are metaphors and models a primary
subject of our inquiry?

Can we investigate our own
presuppositions?

What if you were a spontaneously-
generated child on a deserted island
raised by a gazelle?

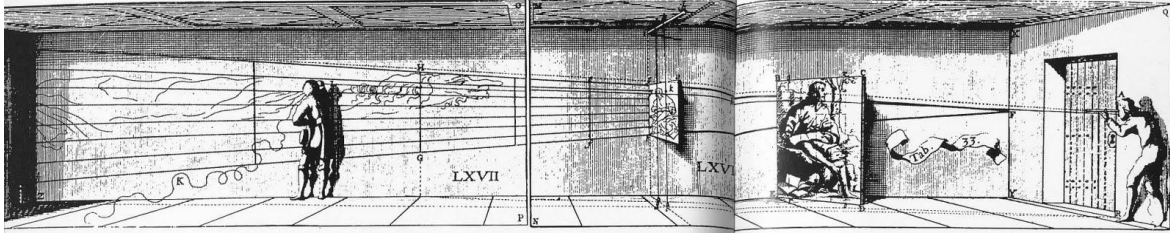


Course Description:

- **Religion and Science** is a course in Religious Studies, which is a multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary field.
- *De rerum natura*. This course explores ways to investigate the dynamics of cultural knowledge and the experience of what is called *nature* or *reality*.

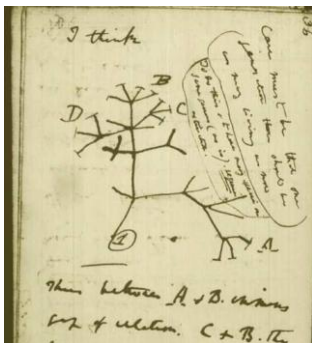
- This is not a course in science. The purpose of this course is neither to examine nor to critique scientific evidence or theory.
- This is not a course in theology. The academic study of religion is not the practice of religion; it is not an arena for faith statements, nor a testing ground for faith.
- The course investigates western models for interpreting the world, their histories, anxieties, triumphs and mutual influences.

Required Texts:

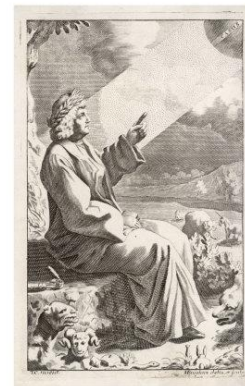


Hans Belting, (Deborah Lucas Schneider, trans), ***Florence and Baghdad: Renaissance Art and Arab Science.***

Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2011.



Charles Darwin, (David Quammen, ed.), ***On the Origin of Species: The Illustrated Edition.*** Sterling Signature; Ill Rep edition, 2011.



Stephen Greenblatt, ***The Swerve: How the World Became Modern.***

W. W. Norton & Company, 2011.



Dorion Sagan, (Lynn Margulis, Celeste A. Asikainen, Wolfgang E. Krumbein, eds.), ***Chimeras and Consciousness: Evolution of the Sensory Self.***

The MIT Press, 2011.



Ibn Tufayl, (Len Evan Goodman, trans.), ***Hayy Ibn Yaqzan: A Philosophical Tale.*** University of Chicago Press, 2009.



In addition, some readings will be distributed in class, and some readings will be available through online sources.

NOTE: OUR TEXTBOOKS ARE CONVERSATION PARTNERS, NOT BOXES OF INFORMATION.

Course Requirements:

- Reading: Students are responsible for all reading assignments in the textbooks, as well as occasional class handouts and online sources.
- Class Participation: In addition to contributing the class conversation, students may prepare brief oral contributions from INQUIRY entries.
- Two One-Hour Examinations: primarily short-answer essay and identification over readings, lecture, discussion.

One: February 21.

Two: April 26.

100 Points for each Exam.

- INQUIRY: This collection will be organized and in a folder. It will include these categories:

Study Guides
Exams and In-Class Reflections
Chronology
Essays

All material will be kept current, used in class, and collected three times during the semester. Plagiarism will not be tolerated by Montana State University. Please type all entries other than in-class work.

Collection I: January 31.

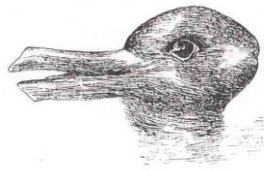
Collection II: March 8.

Collection III: April 19.

Essays are evaluated on Thesis, Form, Sources, Development, Relevance.

100 Points for each Inquiry Collection.

You may bring your INQUIRY portfolio to Professor Sexson or Mr Brouwer at any time during the semester for assistance or conversation.



WELCOME TO THE CLASS.