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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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:**


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.