

Discourses of sciences and religions
PH 450
Dr. Chitta R. Unni
Chaminade University of Honolulu
Fall 2001

Course Basics

- **Course Name:** Introduction to Philosophy
- **Course Code:** PH 450
- **Semester:** Fall 2001
- **Days:** MWF
- **Time:** 02:00-02:50 AM
- **Room:** H 223

Texts.

- Ted Peters, ed., *Science and Theology.*
- John Polkinghorne, *Beyond Science.*

Suggested References.

- David F. Ford, ed., *The Modern Theologians.*
- Alister M. McGrath, *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Modern Christian Thought*

Topics covered: Main Areas

- Physics and faith.
- Scientific and religious pictures of the world.
- Models of interaction between sciences and religions.
- Evolution, ethics and eschatology.

Topics Covered: Applications

- Physical sciences
- Biological sciences
- Social sciences
- Christian theologies
- The world faiths.

Course Objectives

- Outline the historical models of interaction between sciences and religions.
- Distinguish models, metaphors and symbols and their uses in the discourses of sciences and religions.
- Identify the elements of the worldview presented by modern physics.
- Explain the nature of the human mind.
- Distinguish dogmatic from natural theology.
- Distinguish the reaction to theology between biologists and physicists.
- Discuss the relationship between theologies, cosmologies and ethics.
- Discuss the relation between ethics, evolution and eschatology.
- Explain the nature of knowledge.
- Define the concept of meaning and apply it to life.

Marianist Values.

- Chaminade University is dedicated the the philosophical ideals of Fr. Joseph Chaminade the founder of the Marianist Catholic Order.
- The Marianist Values are:

- Education for the formation of faith.
 - Excellence in education.
 - Educate in family spirit.
 - Educate for service, justice and peace.
 - Educate for adaptation and change.
- These values enter our discussions throughout.

Method of Teaching

- Explaining central ideas.
- Showing how to apply them.
- Relating to readings.
- Demonstrating competence.

Grading Standards

- The following grading standards are specified in Chaminade General Catalog 2000-2001, page 42
- A = Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative.
- B = Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner.
- C = Average grade indicating a competent grasp of the subject matter.
- D = Inferior work of the lowest passing grade.
- F = Failed to grasp the minimum subject matter; no grades given.

Requirements

- Attendance 5%
- Participation 5%
- Homework 5%
- Quizzes 15%
- Tests 40%
- Midterm 10%
- Final 20%

Attendance

- Attendance will constitute 5% of the final course grade.
- Students missing 9 or more class sessions will receive no percentage points for attendance.
- Attendance will be recorded and absences reported in accordance with University policy.
- Students arriving 10 minutes late will receive 0 points for their attendance on that day.
- Students leaving before the class is over will receive 0 points for their attendance on that day.

Participation

- Participation will constitute 5% of the final course grade.
- Do the required readings on time and be prepared for quizzes and tests.
- Take the quizzes and tests regularly at the time when they are given.
- Submit all in-class projects and assignments on time, well edited and in proper format.
- Refrain from sleeping in class, reading material not relevant for the class or engaged in disruptive activities such as talking to others.
- Those who do the above will be regarded as non-participants.

Homework

- Homework will constitute 5% of the final course grade.
- All assignments must be done in a neat and proper fashion, meeting any required format that is specified in the assignment.

- They should be submitted on time.
- Homework assignments not submitted on time will not be accepted.

Quizzes

- Quizzes will constitute 15% of the final course grade.
- They are short queries addressed to the student after a power point presentation of the day's lecture by the instructor.
- Their objective is to assess the student's grasp of what the instructor regards as the central point in that day's lecture.
- They are also designed to make students pay attention to class discussions, ask questions if they did not understand what was presented in a lecture and take notes of important ideas discussed by the instructor.

Tests

- All the tests taken together will constitute 40% of the final course grade.
- At the end of presenting each of the course objectives, there will be a test.
- The test objective is to assess the student's competence level for that particular course objective.
- The test dates are specified in the syllabus.
- These tests are given in addition to any quizzes that may be given at the end of any power point presentation.
- Students arriving more than 5 minutes for the test will not be given the test.

Mid-Term

- The Mid-Term will constitute 10% of the final course grade.
- The Mid-Term will be a take-home project.
- It will be distributed in class.
- Late submission will carry a grade penalty.
- Submissions not meeting proper format will not be accepted.
- The proper format and due date will appear on the mid-term assignment.

Final

- The final will constitute 20% of the final course grade.
- The final exam will be administered on the date and at the time and place set by the registrar.
- Please check your Chaminade Course Schedule, which you received from the authorities to determine these details.

Make Up test.

- Students who missed tests will get one opportunity to make up their losses.
- A general make up tests will be given on a date that will be announced later in class.
- No other make up tests will be given.
- Students who miss this day will not be able to take any other make up tests.
- Students who come late for the make up tests will not be able to take it.

Special Project.

- Students may do one project as a special project for extra grade.
- Students are not required to do any special projects but any student may opt in favor of it.
- The special project will count up to 5% of the final grade.
- The project proposals must follow guidelines that will be distributed to the class by.

Test on submissions.

- If the instructor feels that the student's take home work submitted to him require a discussion with the student then the student should be prepared to meet with the instructor for such discussions.

- The grade for any take home submissions will be subject to the instructor determining that the student actually understands what he or she has written.

Use of e-mail.

- Students are expected to submit their take home projects in class personally to the instructor.
- The student may, with the instructor's permission submit his or her assignments through the <http://www.blackboard.com> course site.
- E-mail is not a preferred format to submit assignments.
- E-mail submission in the form of attachments will not be acceptable.
- E-mails should be strictly restricted to brief communications with the instructor.

Course Grade

- The course grade will be computed from the overall performance of the student in the course.
- In computing it the grades from the quizzes, homework, midterm, and final will be taken into consideration.
- Attendance and participation will also count towards the course grade.
- The weight of each of these factors as specified will be applied in determining the final course grade.

Class Conduct

- Set any electronic devices to silent mode or turn them off.
- Sleeping or doing other unrelated work in class will cost points in terms of attendance.
- Students are expected to be in class on time, walking in late will disrupt the class.
- Please refrain from excessive talking or other conduct that will be a nuisance to others.
- A generally polite, friendly atmosphere will make our semester enjoyable.

Information About the Instructor

- Name: Dr. Chitta R. Unni
- Rank: Professor of philosophy
- Tel (H): 941 84 34
- Tel (O): 735 4879
- e-mail: crunni@yahoo.com
- Office Hours: T and Th from 8-12 AM or by appointment.
- Office Location: Henry 206 (A)

Schedule of meetings

1	27-Aug	M	Pre-test and course outline.
2	29-Aug	W	Two historical cases.
3	31-Aug	F	Theory and experience.
4	5-Sep	W	Test 1
5	7-Sep	F	Critical realism.
6	10-Sep	M	Approaches to theology.
7	12-Sep	W	Varieties of interaction.
8	14-Sep	F	Test 2
9	17-Sep	M	Language and reality.
10	19-Sep	W	Models, metaphors and symbols.
11	21-Sep	F	Language, truth and logic.
12	24-Sep	M	Test 3
13	26-Sep	W	Quantum picture of the world.
14	28-Sep	F	Philosophical insights.

15	1-Oct	M	Cosmology
16	3-Oct	W	Test 4
17	5-Oct	F	The anthropic principle.
18	10-Oct	W	Evolution, chance and necessity.
19	11-Oct	F	The concept of time.
20	15-Oct	M	Test 5
21	13-Oct	W	An analysis of the human person.
22	18-Oct	F	Theories of mind.
23	22-Oct	M	Process philosophy.
24	24-Oct	W	Test 6
25	26-Oct	F	Theism
26	29-Oct	M	Divine action model
27	31-Oct	W	Christian theology
28	2-Nov	F	Test 7
29	5-Nov	M	Physics and faith.
30	7-Nov	W	Theology, cosmology and ethics.
31	9-Nov	F	Is the universe absurd?
32	14-Nov	W	Test 8
33	16-Nov	F	Evolution, ethics and eschatology.
34	19-Nov	M	Biology, evolution and the human person.
35	21-Nov	W	Creation versus evolution.
36	26-Nov	M	Test 9
37	28-Nov	W	Philosophy of science.
38	30-Nov	F	Philosophy of religion.
39	3-Dec	M	Natural theology now.
40	5-Dec	W	Test 10
41	7-Dec	F	Evaluations and post-test

Discourses of Science and Religion. Fall 2001 Pre-Test. Instructor Dr. C. R. Unni

The following is administered to each student to collect statistical data regarding the effectiveness of the class in meeting educational objectives.

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Gender: Male Female Age _____

Major _____ Minor _____

Class Standing: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Race or ethnicity _____

Please respond to the following by marking the appropriate boxes.

If given a test today at what level will you be able to perform the following tasks? The levels are:

- A = Excellent
- B = Good
- C = Fair
- D = Barely
- F = Not at all

Statements	A	B	C	D	F
1. I can outline the historical models of interaction between Sciences and religions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Distinguish models, metaphors and symbols and their use in the discourses of sciences and religions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Identify the elements of the world-view presented by modern physics.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Explain the nature of the human mind.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Distinguish dogmatic from natural theology.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Distinguish the reaction to theology between biologists and physicists.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Discuss the relationship between theologies, cosmology and ethics.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Discuss the relationship between ethics, evolution and eschatology.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Explain the nature of knowledge.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Define the concept of meaning and apply it to life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>