

Resources for Teachers: Religion & Science

Science, Religion and the Origins of the Universe

YouTube Playlist of MOOC videos:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKuMaHOvHA4qv_FQ8NR8EXJT75CNJI9VA

Essay/Discussion question:

Which, if any, of the religious or mythological accounts of the structure of the universe does current science support?

Reading:

[What provides a better explanation for the origin of the universe: science or religion?](#)

Evolution and Design

YouTube Playlist of MOOC videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKuMaHOvHA4qbSVjDCQEplSCIfXLj3Pie>

Essay/Discussion question:

Is Intelligent Design compatible with Evolutionary Theory?

Reading:

[Darwin and Design \(with study questions, reading suggestions, and glossary of terms\)](#)

Sin, Suffering and Salvation: Evolution's Thorny Issues

YouTube Playlist of MOOC videos:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKuMaHOvHA4oRQI213FnafDybR_fUnYB3

Essay/Discussion question:

Does accepting evolution necessarily rule out the possibility of divine action?

Reading:

[Evolution, Suffering, and the Creative Love of God](#)

[The purpose of dinosaurs: Extinction and the goodness of God](#)

Buddhism and Science

YouTube Playlist of MOOC videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKuMaHOvHA4rag4t-jdbeDdye5nb0rIF>

Lecture 1: The History and Geography of Buddhism

Essay/Discussion questions:

Can an atheist view be a religion?

What is the difference between religion and philosophy?

Reading:

G. Priest (2014), *One*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, Preface, P9, P10.

M. Siderits (2007), *Buddhism as Philosophy*, Aldershot: Ashgate, ch. 1.

Lecture 2: Some Basic Buddhist Ideas: the Four Noble Truths

Essay/Discussion questions:

Is suffering necessarily a bad thing?

Why should a Buddhist be concerned with the suffering of others?

Reading:

A. Carpenter (2014), *Indian Buddhist Philosophy*, Durham: Acumen, ch. 1.

M. Siderits (2007), *Buddhism as Philosophy*, Aldershot: Ashgate, ch. 2.

Lecture 3: Buddhist Atheism and Scientific Naturalism

Essay/Discussion questions:

When is it rational to believe something you have been told (by a person or a book)?

Are there any experts in morality. If not, why not? If so, why are they experts?

Reading:

R. Perret (2016), *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, ch. 7.

C. A. J. Coady (1992), *Testimony*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, ch. 1.

Lecture 4: Buddhist Anātman and the Scientific View of a Person

Essay/Discussion questions:

Do you have a self, in the sense that Buddhists deny?

When, exactly, is it reasonable to posit the existence of something that you cannot directly experience?

Reading:

A. Carpenter (2014), *Indian Buddhist Philosophy*, Durham: Acumen, ch. 2.

D. Dennett, (1993), *Consciousness Explained*, London: Penguin Books, ch.5.

Lecture 5: Some Aspects of Western Logic

Essay/Discussion questions:

What makes a view scientific?

Are there claims which are neither true nor false, or both true and false?

Reading:

G. Priest (2017), *Logic: a Very Short Introduction*, 2nd edn, Oxford: Oxford University Press, chs. 1, 2.

L. R. Horn (2010), 'Contradiction', in E. Zalta (ed.), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/contradiction/>.

Lecture 6: The Buddhist Catuskoṭi

Essay/Discussion questions:

How can one adjudicate a dispute about logic?

Could it be rational to believe a contradiction to be true?

Reading:

G. Priest (201+), '[The Catuskoṭi](#)' (to appear).

G. Priest (2014), 'Speaking of the Ineffable...', ch. 7 of J. L. Liu and D. L. Berger (eds.), *Nothingness in Asian Philosophy*, London: Routledge.

Lecture 7: Emptiness (Śūnyatā)

Essay/Discussion questions:

Is anything what it is in and of itself (without relation to anything else)? If so, what? If not, why not?

Why might one think that everything is what it is by relating to all other things? Is that a good reason?

Reading:

J. Westerhoff (2014), 'Nāgārjuna', in E. Zalta (ed.), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/nagarjuna/>

J. L. Liu, (2006), *An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy*, Oxford: Blackwell, ch. 10.

Lecture 8: Quantum Mechanics and Entanglement

Essay/Discussion questions:

How can a cat be in a state indeterminate between life and death?

Is the analogy between the interdependence of Huayan Buddhism and the universal entanglement of quantum mechanics a good one?

Reading:

Wikipedia (nd), 'Quantum Entanglement':

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_entanglement.

Dali Lama (2005), *The Universe in a Single Atom*, New York: Harmony Books, ch. 3.

Human Uniqueness in Science, Theology and Ethics

YouTube Playlist of MOOC videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKuMaHOvHA4pZloXGPU4vUAw2FGCNYUgP>

Essay/Discussion question:

Do Christians have good reason to be vegetarian?

Reading:

[All God's creatures: Reading Genesis on human and nonhuman animals](#)

[Not a Not-Animal: The Vocation to Be a Human Animal Creature](#)

[Consuming Animal Creatures: The Christian Ethics of Eating Animals](#)

Additional video lectures on the topic

[David Clough - Mirroring Narcissus: The Pursuit of Human Uniqueness as Species - Level Narcissism](#)

[David Clough - Animals and the Kingdom of God](#)