

***Lectures on Science and Theology:
Philosophical and Historical Perspectives***

AA. 2023/24, First semester October 2023 - January 2024

D462 - Wednesday, 15:00 - 16:45

Room Alvaro del Portillo, 1st floor

Abstract

The course intends: a) to examine those contemporary scientific results and perspectives that seem to challenge our religious and theological worldview, and b) to show the significance of the discourse on God in scientific culture. The faith in God the creator of heaven and earth and the Christian proclamation of the Incarnation of the Word are assessed against the background of our knowledge of the physical cosmos, and of the evolutionary history of life and humankind on earth. The course includes both an epistemological perspective, preliminary to the dialogue between science, philosophy and theology, and a historical perspective, useful to highlight the history of the ideas involved in these three fields of knowledge. The course aims at providing an example of a Fundamental Theology in Scientific Context and is organized by the Interdisciplinary Center for Religion and Science (disf.org - inters.org).

The exam will consist in a 20 minutes oral colloquium starting from the content of at least two *Lectures* given in the Program, one chosen by the student and one chosen by the teacher, in one of the following languages: English, Italian, French, Spanish.

An optional short essay, can be also prepared to contribute to the final exam. The essay, in English or Italian, can concern a specific topic or an extended book review, *previously approved by the director of the course* (prof. G. Tanzella-Nitti). A list of possible book reviews is available on request.

The essay (min 10.000, max 20.000 characters) must be sent as a Word file to tanzella@pusc.it, no later than May, 31.

The final mark will be computed adding the mark for the oral colloquium (1-9) to the mark for the optional essay (0-1).

Lecture 1

Is Scientific Knowledge Relevant to Theology? The Influence of Contemporary Scientific World-View on the Work of Theologians

G. Tanzella-Nitti

Lecture 2

Is the notion of God meaningful to Scientific Culture? The Openness of Science to the Quest for Truth and Meaning

G. Tanzella-Nitti

Lecture 3

Physical Cosmology and Christian Theology of Creation

G. Tanzella-Nitti

Lecture 4

The Christological Dimension of the Cosmos

G. Tanzella-Nitti

Lecture 5

The Debate on the Laws of Nature: Science, Philosophy and Theology

G. Tanzella-Nitti

Lecture 6

Life in the Universe: Scientific and Theological Perspectives

G. Tanzella-Nitti

Lecture 7

The Place of the Human Being in the Cosmos. Unexpected Insights from the Anthropic Principle

G. Tanzella-Nitti

Lecture 8

The Metaphor of the Book of Nature: general foundations

O. Juurikkala

Lecture 9

The Book of Nature between natural knowledge of God and God's Revelation

O. Juurikkala

Lecture 10

Beauty and Wonder in Nature and Science

O. Juurikkala

Lecture 11

Purpose in Nature? The moral dimension of the Book of Nature

O. Juurikkala

Lecture 12

Science and Religion in the media: material for a general discussion

(cooperative seminar including students contributions)