

**PHIL3743**  
**Topics in Inter-Disciplinary Problems 跨科哲學探討專題**

**Course Outline**

**Time : W 3:30pm-6:15pm**

**Location : UCC 201**

**Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)**

In this course, we will discuss issues related to atheism and problems inherent to Judeo-Christian theology. Topics may include the creation-evolution controversy, organismic and cosmic design arguments, impossibility arguments, the problem of evil and scientific explanations of religious experience. Related aspects of evolutionary biology, physical cosmology, probability theory, cognitive psychology and brain research will be covered.

**Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)**

1. Acquire knowledge of the selected topics of the course.
2. Have a solid grasp of the philosophical issues of the selected topics of the course.
3. Demonstrate familiarity with the primary/secondary source texts.
4. Be able to articulate and defend a philosophical thesis of their own.
5. Be able to reflect critically on their own beliefs.

**Topics**

1. Organismic (biological) design argument and evolutionary biology
2. Cosmic (physical) design argument and physical cosmology
3. (Kalam) Cosmological argument and physical cosmology
4. Religious experience and cognitive science
5. Impossibility arguments and other topics

**Learning activities**

1. Lecture: 2 hours each week
2. Interactive Tutorial: five 2-hour sessions (plus one briefing session)
3. Reading: 3-4 hours each week

### Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Two Short Papers		60%
Tutorials		30%
Class Discussion		10%

### Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

### Recommended learning resources

Barbour, Ian G., *Religion and Science: Historical and Contemporary Issues*, San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1997.

Behe, Michael J., *Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution*, New York: Free Press, 1996.

Behe, Michael J., *The Edge of Evolution: The Search for the Limits of Darwinism*, New York: Free Press, 2008.

Dalrymple, B., *The Age of the Earth*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1991.

Dawkins, Richard, *The Blind Watchmaker: Why the Evidence of Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design*, New York: Norton, 1987.

Dawkins, Richard, *The God Delusion*, London: Bantam Press, 2006.

Dawkins, Richard, *The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution*, Free Press, 2009.

Dawkins, Richard, *The Selfish Gene*, 30th anniversary ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Dembski, William A., *Intelligent Design: the Bridge Between Science & Theology*, InterVarsity Press, 2007.

Dembski, William A., *The Design Inference: Eliminating Chance Through Small Probabilities*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Dembski, William A./Ruse, Michael, ed., *Debating Design: From Darwin to DNA*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Dembski, William A./Wells, Jonathan, ed., *The Design of Life: Discovering Signs of Intelligence In Biological Systems*, Foundation for Thought and Ethics, Dallas: Foundation for Thought and Ethics, 2008.

Dennett, Daniel, *Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon*, Penguin Group 2006.

Dennett, Daniel, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea: Evolution and the Meanings of Life*, Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Dennett, Daniel, *Elbow Room: The Varieties of Free Will Worth Wanting*, MIT Press 1984.

Flew, Anthony, *There Is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind*, HarperOne, 2008.

- Futuyma, Douglas J., *Science on Trial*, New York: Pantheon, 1983.
- Kitcher, Philip, *Abusing Science: The Case Against Creationism*. MIT Press, 1982.
- Kitcher, Philip, *Living with Darwin: Evolution, Design, and the Future of Faith*, Oxford University Press, January 2007
- Martin, Michael, *Atheism: A Philosophical Justification*, Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1989.
- Martin, Michael, *The Case Against Christianity*, Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991.
- Martin, Michael, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Atheism*, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007.
- Martin, Michael/Monnier, Ricki, ed., *The Impossibility of God*, Amherst, NY: Prometheus, 2003.
- Martin, Michael/Monnier, Ricki, ed., *The Improbability of God*, Amherst, NY: Prometheus, 2006.
- Miller, Kenneth R., *Finding Darwin's God: A Scientist's Search for Common Ground Between God and Evolution*, New York: Perennial, 2007.
- Miller, Kenneth R., *Only a Theory: Evolution and the Battle for America's Soul*, New York: Viking Adult, 2008.
- Monton, Bradley, *Seeking God in Science: An Atheist defends Intelligent Design*, Broadview Press, 2009.
- Nagel, Thomas, "Public Education and Intelligent Design," in *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, Vol. 36, No. 2. (2008), pp. 187-205.
- NOVA, *Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial (DVD)*, 2008.
- Pennock, Robert T., *Tower of Babel: The Evidence Against the New Creationism*, Cambridge: MIT Press, 1999.
- Pennock, Robert T., ed., *Intelligent Design Creationism and Its Critics: Philosophical, Theological, and Scientific Perspectives*, Cambridge: MIT Press, 2001.
- Pennock, Robert T./Ruse, Michael, ed., *But is it Science? The Philosophical Question in the Creation/Evolution Controversy*, Amherst: Prometheus Books, 2009.
- Ruse, Michael, *The Evolution-Creation Struggle*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005.
- Sober, Elliott, *Evidence and Evolution: The Logic Behind the Science*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- Sober, Elliott, *Philosophy of Biology*, 2nd ed., Boulder: Westview Press, 2000.
- Whitcomb, J. C./Morris, H. M., *The Genesis Flood*, Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1961.

### **Details of course website**

**Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)**

<b>Teacher</b>	
Name:	Lau Chong-fuk
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Telephone:	3943 7137
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<b>TA</b>	
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**Academic honesty and plagiarism**

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.