# Selected Titles in Science, Religion, and Technology


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**Cerritos College**

**Department of Philosophy**

**A Dialogue on Religious Studies, Science, and Technology:**

**A Student Success Initiative**

**Spring 2015**

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Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the more often and steadily we reflect upon them: the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me.

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Immanuel Kant. *Critique of Practical Reason* (1788)
Justification of the Project:

As perhaps never before in history, science and technology have challenged the meaning of human existence and our moral relationship with the non-human natural world. In short, humanity is now experiencing an unprecedented philosophical, indeed, a spiritual crisis. A significant aspect of this crisis lies in how traditional religious beliefs and practices can be renewed, if possible, and re-conceptualized, if necessary. In this series of public events, the Cerritos College Philosophy Department invites students to explore pressing problems like environmental destruction and climate change and their impact on the world’s diverse religious traditions. Students will have the opportunity to read cutting-edge moral philosophy and philosophy of religion, to present their own perspectives, and to explore together possible solutions to contemporary eco-religious problems by envisioning concrete steps toward a more just and sustainable world.

The Department of Philosophy appreciates the generous grant provided by the Cerritos College Foundation for making possible these Student Success activities.

March 24- Socrates Café: Group Discussion: A Problem of Evil: Islamophobia — What it is, and why it’s Wrong.
Dr. Ted Stolze, Department of Philosophy

March 26- (Thursday) Student Conference: The Basic Question: Science versus Religion or Science and Religion?
Dr. Philip Clayton, Claremont Theological Seminary
11:00 - 12:15 PM; Room: LC155 (Teleconference Ctr.)

March 31- The Turing Test: Philosophy, Science, and Technology at work
Prof. Greg Spooner, Department of Philosophy

April 7- The religious experience and American politics
Prof. Dennis Falcon, Political Science Department

April 14- Socrates Café: Film and Discussion: PBS Sacred Journey Jerusalem — Pilgrimages at a Glance: Judaism (1st millennium BCE), Christianity (1st Century CE), and Islam (6th Century CE)

April 21- Food and the Religious Experience
Presenter: Dr. Ralph Casas, Chair, Pharmacy Technology Department

April 28- Religious Studies, Science, and Technology:
Prof. Joseph Van de Mortel, Department of Philosophy

May 5- Socrates Café: Film and Discussion: PBS Sacred Journey, Kimbho Mela: Hinduism at a glance — the largest gathering of humanity in the planet for religious purposes. Such mass bathing in the Ganges has been recorded for more than 2,500 years.

May 12- Socrates Café: Transhumanism: Can humans transcend biology?
Presenter: Anthony Ruiz-Avalos — Philosophy Student
Cerritos College
Philosophy Department
Philosophy Club
Tentative Spring 2015 Calendar of Events
Every Tuesday @ 11 am in SS 137

Why Study Philosophy? ‘To Challenge Your Own Point of View.’

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”

Aristotle

Philosophy Club Socrates’ Café—Practicing how to think not what to think by exchanging thoughtful ideas and experiences while embracing the Socratic Method

January 20- Business Meeting
Philosophy Club Leadership Team—Join us!

January 27- Phenomenology and Religion
Prof. Robert Sliff, Department of Philosophy

February 3- Socrates’ Café: Science and the World’s Religions: Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Group Discussion on Phillip Clayton’s Religion and Science—the Basics Dr. Ted Stolze

February 10- What does Nietzsche Want?
Mr. Timothy Chatman, MA Philosophy, University of Nice, France

February 17- Socrates Cafe: Film & Discussion: Sacred Journeys PBS—Shikoku
In the footsteps of the Buddhist monk Kobo-Daishi, you walk the 750 mile pilgrimage around the island of Shikoku, Japan, with some American pilgrims.

February 24- Religion and Science: Are they actually in conflict?
Mr. Andrew Rehfeld, MA Philosophy, Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium

March 3- Socrates Café: Film & Discussion: Journey of the Universe—An Epic Story of Cosmic, Earth, and Human Transformation

March 10- Ethics of the Sopranos: Food, Sex, and Denial
Prof. Lindsey Lefebvre, English Department

Description of the Project:

The project will encompass a series of activities designed to continue a conversation among students and faculty members in three areas of scholarship commonly examined in philosophy classes: the study of world religions, philosophy of science, and technology. Analogous to the increase of knowledge in the domains of science and technology, the study of religions continues to evolve and to address questions traditionally considered subjects of science such as the explanation of the universe and questions about climate change. The study of religions examines these facts in the light of moral, political, and cultural implications for the 21st Century global community.

Given the intellectual complexity of these topics, the Department of Philosophy will design a series of forums to engage students and faculty in a conversation on themes related to the disciplines mentioned above. The plan is divided into three major components.

The double-helix model of DNA structure was first published in the journal Nature by James D. Watson and Francis Crick in 1953.
I- Faculty professional development:

Philosophy instructors will examine some of the most recent scholarship in these domains of knowledge to design classroom activities. Faculty professional development meetings are scheduled for the months of February, March, and April 2015. Texts selected to engage faculty members in these endeavors:


II- Philosophy Club:

Scheduled events are on themes related to Religious Studies, Science, and Technology: These activities are student forums to discuss readings and philosophical questions emerging from the above topics. Please refer to the calendar of events included in this brochure.

III- Student conference:

Thursday, March 26th, 11:00 AM, LC 155.

Guest: Dr. Philip Clayton

Author of *Religion and Science: The Basics.*

This event is the culmination of the project, *A Dialogue on Religious Studies, Science, and Technology: A Student Success Initiative.*

The campus community is invited to participate.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

1. Students become familiar with diverse approaches to the study of religion and science, including those that assume conflict, integration, and separation between the two fields;

2. Students learn about and discuss the relations between religion and specific scientific themes, including evolution, cognitive neuroscience, cosmology, and scientific method;

3. Students improve their ability to discuss and analyze theoretical claims and supporting arguments;

4. Student learn the history, underlying theory, and methodologies used to analyze the relations between religion and science, as an interdisciplinary field of study drawing on natural and physical sciences, religious studies, and philosophy.