

PLS ALUMNI SEMINAR
SUMMER, 2017

*Creationism and Science:
New Insights into an Old Question*

PROFESSOR (EMERITUS) PHILLIP SLOAN
(*Program of Liberal Studies, Notre Dame*)

Mini-Course Description:

This course is intended as a follow-up to the single session on Darwin and Creation in the summer of 2016. In this case we will deal both historically and conceptually with the issue. The intent will be to get us past the tired “evolution and creation” debates that have badly muddied the waters and that have generated several misconceptions on how the Christian doctrine of creation relates to natural philosophy and its successor, modern physics and biology. This topic will be engaged by early efforts to give “allegorical” readings of the Book of *Genesis* and how this was transformed into a realist claim about the developmental history of nature. We will terminate by readings from a contemporary theoretical physicist interested in the dialogue of science and theology.

My reader contains short introductions to the readings and should help guide through these materials. Please contact me with any questions (sloan.1@nd.edu).

Texts:

Collection of Duplicated Readings from primary sources. These will either be posted on the Department web page (non copyright—Indicated by DW) or else put in a secure website or mailed directly (copyright—Indicated by CM). One text is on the Web and can be downloaded as indicated.

Hanby, M. *No God, No Science? Theology, Cosmology and Biology* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2016) PB. ISBN 978 1 4051-5801. \$45. Also on Kindle.

Barr, S. *Modern Physics and Ancient Faith* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2006) ISBN 0-268-02198-8. \$23

SCHEDULE OF CLASS DISCUSSIONS AND READINGS

| DATE | TOPIC | TEXTS UNDER DISCUSSION | ASSIGNMENT |
|-------------|--|---|--|
| 6/5 | Opening Session 1. Dealing with Bible and Creation: Voices from Tradition | <i>Genesis</i> ’; Plato, <i>Timaeus</i> : Augustine, <i>On the Literal Interpretation of Genesis</i> (Reader) | Reader “Introductory Discussion”; <i>Genesis</i> I:i-ii (any edition); Plato, Selection from <i>Timaeus</i> (DW); Augustine, <i>Literal Interpretation</i> Books 1-2 Available at www.scottmacdonald.net/genesis/Texts.../Augustine%20Literal%20Meaning%20of%20... Hanby, Chp. 2 |
| 6/6 | 2. Early Modern Reflections: Hypothetical and Real “History” of Nature | Descartes, <i>Principles of Philosophy</i> ; Buffon, <i>Epochs of Nature</i> | Reader Selections, from Descartes, <i>Principles of Philosophy</i> (DW and CW), Buffon, <i>Epoch 1</i> (CW) Hanby, chp. 3 |
| 6/7 | 3. Evolution and Creation: Two Views from the 19th C | Robert Chambers, <i>Vestiges of Natural History of Creation</i> ; Darwin, <i>Origin of Species</i> , | Reader Selections from Chambers, <i>Vestiges</i> (DW) Darwin, <i>Origin</i> (DW) Hanby chps. 4-5 |
| 6/8 | 4. Contemporary Catholic Theology and Creationism | Readings in Hanby and Barr | Hanby, chp. 7 Barr, chps 1-3, 9–11,13 (these are short) |
| 6/9 | 5. Contemporary Catholic Theology and Creationism | Readings in Hanby and Barr Concluding Discussion | Hanby, chp. 9 Barr , chps. 19 |

