

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

AA. 2021/22, Second semester February - May 2022

D462 - Wednesday, 15:00 - 16:40

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 highlighting how those three fields of knowledge have interacted reciprocally. Some relevant interdisciplinary issues are also addressed, such as the theology of miracle, the uniqueness of *Homo sapiens* among the other living beings on the planet and the possible spread of life in the cosmos. 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).

Instructions for the final exam

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

An optional, short essay, can be also prepared as a contribution to the exam, in English or Italian, concerning a topic or an extended book review, in English or Italian, *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 0-9 for the oral colloquium to 0-1 for the optional essay.

Lecture 1, February, 16

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

G. Tanzella-Nitti

Lecture 2, February, 23

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, March, 2

Physical Cosmology and Christian Theology of Creation

G. Tanzella-Nitti

Lecture 4, March, 9

The Christological Dimension of the Cosmos

G. Tanzella-Nitti

Lecture 5, March 16

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

G. Tanzella-Nitti

Lecture 6, March, 23

Life in the Universe: Scientific and Theological Perspectives

G. Tanzella-Nitti

Lecture 7, March, 30

The Human Uniqueness: the Cultural Evolution of *Homo sapiens*

I. Colagè

Lecture 8, April, 6

Original Sin and Evolution: Challenges and Recent Proposals

O. Juurikkala

Lecture 9 , April, 27

The Role of Myth and Metaphor in Religion and Science

G. Capasso

Lecture 10 and 11, May, 4 and May 11

**The Metaphor of the Book of Nature: Historical and Theological Perspectives
(Part I and II)**

O. Juurikkala

Lecture 12, May, 18

Humanity and the Environment: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Ecology

I. Colagè

Lecture 13, May, 25

**The Role of Christian Revelation in the Birth of Western Culture and the
Rise of the Scientific Method**

C. Tagliapietra