

Time: Spring 2009
Instructor: Andrey Shirin, PhD
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Purpose:

The course will examine the current models of theology-science dialogue and explore the impact of postmodern rationality on theological reflection. We will probe the common resources of rationality shared by theology and science in order to clarify the role of theology in the contemporary public space, particularly in academia.

Required Texts:

Gregersen, Niels, and van Huyssteen, Wentzel, editors, *Rethinking Theology and Science: Six Models for the Current Dialogue*. 0802844642.
Kuhn, Thomas, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, second edition (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1970) pp. 35-135. 0226458040.
Laudan, Larry, *Progress and Its Problems*. (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1978) pp. 70-120. 9780520037212
Murphy, Nancey, *Theology in the Age of Scientific Reasoning* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1990) pp. 51-87, 174-211. 0801481147.

Requirements:

The course will meet for four days, Friday and Saturday first week, and Friday and Saturday the week after. Students are expected to complete the required reading prior to the class. During the first two sessions the three models of postempiricist philosophy of science the six models of theology-science dialogue and the pertinent material will be presented and examined. During the last two sessions each student will lead an hour-long discussion on the previously approved topic. Every student will submit a final paper, 10-15 pages long. The title and thesis of the paper should be approved by the instructor.

Outline of topics and issues:

1. Introduction
2. Models of postempiricist philosophy of science.
 - a) Thomas Kuhn.
 - b) Imre Lakatos.
 - c) Larry Laudan.

3. Current models of theology-science dialogue.
- a) Postfoundationalist.
 - b) Critical Realist.
 - c) Naturalist.
 - d) Pragmatic.
 - e) Complementary perspectives.
 - f) Coherentist.