BCRE19 Theological Cosmology and Anthropology

Semester: B  
ECTS Credits: 5  
Duration: 11 weeks  
Contact Hours: 22  
Quota: Maximum of 10  
Prerequisite subjects: None

Module Description:

Cosmology traces developments in the mythological and natural-scientific study of the universe in its complex history. This module will investigate these developments as they have been interpreted and received from biblical, theological and philosophical perspectives. Natural-scientific descriptions of the world have implications for how theology conceives of God’s action in creation (pantheism, deism, panentheism). This course will examine the complex history of the doctrine of creatio ex nihilo in the Abrahamic faiths. The second part of the module will focus on theological anthropologies under several themes: the human person as created in the image of God (imago Dei), as steward of creation, as embodied and free, contingent and subject to frailty and failure (sin).
Throughout it explores how specific cosmologies and anthropologies, theological and philosophical, can influence politics and ethics, using case studies from the natural, social and environmental sciences.

Learning Outcomes:
On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
• Trace the complex history of the relationship between natural-scientific understandings of the cosmos and theological understandings of creation
• Analyse the conflicts and convergences between science and theology in the modern period
• Outline and debate what these imply for an understanding of God, creation and the human person.

Indicative reading:
Berry, R.J. Environmental Stewardship: Critical Perspectives—Past and Present (Edinburgh; T&T Clark, 2006). Ussher 261.8 P63
Clayton, P. and Peacocke (eds) In Whom We Live and Move and Have Our Being (Michigan; Eerdmans, 2004).
230 Kun P7

**Assessment:** One 3,000 word essay

**Name of Lecturer(s):**
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