

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando

Fall 2008

3 credit hours

Professor C.S. MacKenzie, ThD/PhD/L.H.D.

Teaching Assistant, Jeff Crowe

Course Objectives:

1. To survey the history and development of science with special emphasis on its assumptions and methodologies.
2. To study major issues raised by scientists in the 20th century.
3. To examine how contemporary science relates to the Bible and Reformed theology.

The class will meet Tuesdays from 6-9 pm. Regular attendance is expected. If a student is consistently late to class without providing an adequate excuse, he/she may be asked to drop the class. If a student must miss a class, it is his/her responsibility to get the material missed from another student.

Required Readings:

1. Our primary textbook for the course will be *The Soul of Science: Christian Faith and Natural Philosophy* by Nancy R. Pearcey and Charles B. Thaxton (Crossway Books, 1994).
2. We will also be using selected chapters from *When Science Meets Religion: Enemy, Strangers, or Partners?* by Ian Barbour (Harper-One Publishers, 2000).
3. Other required readings will be available on the reserve shelf in the library.

Course Requirements:

1. Each student is required to write a 10 page term paper which is due on the last day of class, November 25th. This paper must describe what relation the student believes is the *best* relation between science and religion. The paper also *must* explain reasons for the students choice. With the professor's approval, a student may present an oral presentation to the class in place of the term paper. Such presentations should be relevant reports about modern scientific issues such as chaos theory, the genome, cloning, etc.
2. There will be both a mid-term and final exam.

Grading:

1. Term Paper or Oral Presentation (25%)
2. Mid-Term Exam (25%)
3. Final Exam (50%)