



# **ID363 The Faithful Scientist: Explorations in Christianity and Science**

**In Collaboration with the Faraday Institute of Science and Religion, Cambridge | 1.5 CR**

## **About the Course**

The subject of the relationship of science to the Christian faith is a critical matter for our time. New Atheism has put many Western churches into a defensive position as science is used to attack biblical faith. Yet, many areas of scientific research are opening doors to more constructive conversation – even to the extent where science is raising questions it cannot answer by itself. This is an issue that Christians must consider carefully.

<b>Dates (2020)</b>	<b>Location</b>
10 August (7.30–9.30 pm)	Zoom Room
11 August (7.30–9.30 pm)	
12 August (7.30–9.30 pm)	
15 August (4.00–6.00 pm & 7.30–9.30 pm)	
<b>Credits</b>	<b>Fees</b>
1.5CR	S\$225 (Credit)* (Not available for Audit)
<b>Class Format</b>	
(by Zoom)	

As such, in this course, we will undertake a careful examination of the relationship between science and the Christian faith. The course will examine the (1) historical and philosophical roots of science, (2) models of the relationship between science and faith, (3) the ethical dimensions of science from a religious perspective, (4) questions of human origins, (5) the limits of technological utopianism, and, importantly, (6) scientists as disciples and disciple-makers.

## **About the Lecturers**

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This course will be taught by a host of instructors, including three prominent scientists from the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, namely:

1. Prof. Robert White FRS      Professor of Geophysics, University of Cambridge  
Director, Faraday Institute for Science and Religion
2. Prof. Russell Cowburn FRS      Professor of Experimental Physics, University of Cambridge
3. Prof. Ard Louis      Professor of Theoretical Physics, University of Oxford

These speakers will be complemented by some lectures by BGST faculty. The tutor for the course will be Mr Quek Tze Ming, Director (Postgraduate Programmes), BGST.

# Course Objectives

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Upon completion of the course, it is hoped that the student will:

1. understand the historical metanarrative and philosophical framework for engaging with the relationship between science and Christianity;
2. understand how the relationship between science and Christianity is manifested in the various areas of life, including, ethics, human origins, the problem of evil etc.
3. engage with scientists who are Christians as disciples and disciple-makers.

# Course Texts

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The following are the course textbooks:

1. Alexander, Denis, ed. *Has Science Killed God?: The Faraday Papers on Science and Religion*. London: SPCK, 2019. (240 pages)
2. Berry, R.J., ed. *The Lion Handbook of Science and Christianity*. Oxford, England: Lion Books, 2012. (288 pages)
3. Brooke, John Hedley. *Science and Religion*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2014. (578 pages)

# Course Requirements

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The course will be assessed as follows:

- A 1,500-word book review on “Has Science Killed God?” (30%);
- A 1,000-word reflection upon the comparative viewing of the following videos (20%):
  1. Bill Nye Debates Ken Ham (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6kgvhG3AkI>); and
  2. John Lennox, "Seven Days That Divide the World" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FmO2XKMe6g>)
- A 2,000-word essay (50%) on one area where science intersects/interacts with Christian faith, to be agreed upon between the student and BGST tutor.

# Course Schedule

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The course comprises "live" Zoom Sessions from the Conference (10 hours) AND recorded online lectures (1.5 hours); and course work.

## Public Lecture: 10 August (Monday) 1930 – 2130 hrs

Time	Duration	Topic	Description	Speaker/s or Moderator/s
<b><i>Session 1: Science and Faith</i></b>				
1930 hrs	45 mins	"Has Science Killed God?"	How modern scientific advances impact Christian belief, and how faith has responded.	Prof. Ard Louis
2030 hrs	60 mins	Panel Dialogue		Prof. Ard Louis Prof. Robert White Prof. Russell Cowburn Moderated by BGST Faculty

## Night Session: 11 August (Tuesday) 1930 – 2130 hrs

Time	Duration	Topic	Description	Speaker/s or Moderator/s
<b><i>Session 2: Science and Ethics</i></b>				
1930 hrs	45 mins	Ethics and Nanotechnology	An introduction to the ethical implications of scientific work, by discussing the specific case study of nanotechnology	Prof. Russell Cowburn
2030 hrs	60 mins	Panel Dialogue		Prof. Russell Cowburn Moderated by BGST Faculty

## Night Session: 12 August (Wednesday) 1930 – 2130 hrs

Time	Duration	Topic	Description	Speaker/s or Moderator/s
<b><i>Session 3: Science and Human Origins</i></b>				
1930 hrs	45 mins	Creation, Design, and Natural Selection	Scientific origins theories and how they interact with faith.	Prof. Ard Louis

Time	Duration	Topic	Description	Speaker/s or Moderator/s
2030 hrs	60 mins	Panel Dialogue		Prof. Ard Louis Moderated by BGST Faculty

### Weekend Sessions: 15 August (Saturday) 1600 –1830 & 1930 – 2130 hrs

Time	Duration	Topic	Description	Speaker/s or Moderator/s
<b><i>Session 4: Science, Evil, and Technological Utopianism</i></b>				
1600 hrs	45 mins	Are Natural Disasters the Results of Evil?	The question of 'natural' disasters' and the Christian view of evil in the world.	Prof. Robert White
1700 hrs	60 mins	Breakout Discussion		BGST Facilitator
<b><i>Session 5: Science and Christian Faith</i></b>				
1930 hrs	45 mins	Science and Christian Faith - past, Present and Future	How Science and Faith have related to each other, and possible models for the present and future	Prof. Robert White
2030 hrs	60 mins	Panel Dialogue		Moderated by BGST Faculty

### Recorded Online Component (To be viewed during the Conference, or shortly after; links will be provided in Moodle)

Duration	Topic	Description	Lecturer
30 mins	History of Science	A historical metanarrative for understanding scientific thought	Dr Lai Pak Wah
30 mins	Scientific Epistemology	To interrogate more carefully how science seeks knowledge, and how it complements / conflicts with religious knowledge making	
30 mins	Reading Genesis in Ancient Near Eastern Context	Framing the discussion on human origins around the biblical background and context: what and how does the Bible say?	Dr Philip Satterthwaite

### Recommend Reading/ Bibliography

Recommended Reading List will be provided for each topic at the Sessions.

# Course Assignment Policies

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1. For **style and formatting** of assignments, please refer to the document “General Formatting for all Assignments” available on your course Moodle page.
2. ALL assignments are to be submitted by uploading via Moodle.
3. **Unless otherwise indicated**, students must submit their assignments 3 months after the first day of the month following the last class/session (“first deadline”). After the first deadline, students will be granted a further 3-month extension automatically (“second deadline”). However, students who submit after the first deadline will incur the **penalty of a one-third grade deduction** on the specific late assignment (e.g., B+ will be downgraded to B). After the second deadline, the status of the incomplete course will be **converted from Credit to Audit**. This conversion will *not* affect overall GPA.

**First Deadline:           1 December 2020**

**Second Deadline:       1 March 2021**

NOTE FOR STUDENT PASS HOLDERS: The first and second deadlines are shortened to 1 month and 2 months respectively.

For more information, contact us at **Biblical Graduate School of Theology**

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