

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

**TITLE:** Introduction to Metaphysics

**TERM:** January – April 2018 [20181]

**SCHEDULE:** Classes begin January 8, 2018; SAS timetable is available on SAS Website: [www.staugustines.on.ca](http://www.staugustines.on.ca) for day, time and room location.

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Sean Mulrooney

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO 10

UNLIMITED \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a philosophical examination of some fundamental questions in Christian metaphysics: Can we prove that God exists? What is God like? How are God and the world related? More particularly, if God created the world, how do the Big Bang and evolution fit into the picture?

We will attempt to formulate our own answers to each of these questions; but our discussion will make constant reference to the answers already present in the Christian tradition, especially to those of Thomas Aquinas.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

1. To describe and evaluate philosophical proofs for the existence of God.
2. To explain how God and creation are real causes in every change in the world.
3. To describe the evidence for Darwin’s theory of evolution.
4. To describe the inadequate ways that the creation-evolution debate and the creation-Big Bang debate have been presented; and to formulate more adequate ways.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

None.

**POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:**

Class participation		10%
2 3-page essays	10% x 2 =	20%
1 8-10 page essay on evolution and creation		40%
Final exam		30%

**ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Aquinas, Thomas. *Summa Theologiae*. New York: Benzinger Brothers, 1947.

Crysdale, Cynthia and Neil Ormerud. *Creator God, Evolving World*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013.

Dawkins, Richard. *The Blind Watchmaker*. New York: Norton, 1996.

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McGrath, Alister E. and Joanna McGrath. *The Dawkins Delusion: Atheist Fundamentalism and the Denial of the Divine*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2007.

Polkinghorne, John. *Science and Providence: God's Interaction with the World*. Boston: New Science Library, 1989.

Schönborn, Christopher. *Chance or Purpose? Creation, Evolution and a Rational Faith*. Trans. Henry Taylor. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2007.