

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.

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**TITLE:** Introduction to Metaphysics

**TERM:** January to April 20191 [20191]

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Pica Francesco

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO \_\_\_\_\_

UNLIMITED \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a philosophical examination of some fundamental questions in Christian metaphysics: Can we prove that God exists? 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?

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

At the end of the course, students should be able:

1. To describe and evaluate philosophical proofs for the existence of God.
2. To explain how both God and creation are real causes in every change.
3. To describe the evidence for Darwin's theory of evolution.
4. To describe 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

Readings will be by provided by the professor.

**POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:**

Class Participation  
Short Paper  
Essay  
Final exam

**ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

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

Hahn, Scott, and Benjamin Wiker. *Answering the New Atheism: Dismantling Dawkins' Case against God*. Steubenville, Ohio: Emmaus Road Pub, 2008.

- Clarke, Norris W., *The One and the Many: A Contemporary Thomistic Metaphysics*. Notre Dame, Ind: University of Notre Dame Press, 2001.
- 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.