

<b>Course ID:</b>	<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Winter 2021</b>
IND 287	Science and Christian Faith	<b>Prerequisite: 3 credits in REL</b>
		<b>Credits: 3</b>

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
<b>Delivery:</b>	Online	<b>Instructor:</b>	Matthew Morris, PhD	<b>First day of classes:</b>	Mon, Jan 11
<b>Days:</b>	Tues/Thurs	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Matthew.Morris@ambrose.edu">Matthew.Morris@ambrose.edu</a>	<b>Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:</b>	Sun, Jan 24
<b>Time:</b>	3:15-4:30 pm	<b>Phone:</b>	403-410-2000 ext. 6932	<b>Last day to request revised final exam:</b>	Mon, Mar 8
<b>Room:</b>		<b>Office:</b>	A2158	<b>Last day to withdraw from course:</b>	Fri, Mar 19
<b>Lab/Tutorial:</b>		<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wed/Fri 9-12	<b>Last day to apply for coursework extension:</b>	Mon, Mar 29
<b>Final Exam:</b>	Take-home exam			<b>Last day of classes:</b>	Fri, Apr 16

### Course Description

This course explores the complex relationship between science and Christian faith, with a particular focus on evolutionary biology. Topics include: models of science-faith interactions; science and religion as ways of knowing; and Christian interpretations of evolution. The bulk of the course will be spent on discussing the four main contemporary Christian perspectives: Young Earth Creationism, Old Earth Creationism, Intelligent Design, and Theistic Evolution. These perspectives will be placed in their historic and contemporary contexts, and will be compared and contrasted for their theological understandings of Creation, Fall, Flood, image, and human origins.

*Note: This course cannot apply as a senior REL course in any program except biology.*

### Expected Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the methods and limitations of scientific investigation.
2. Describe Ian Barbour's four theses of science/religion interactions.
3. Place the current Christian perspectives on science-faith relations in their historical context, including the Christian responses to evolution before 1900, the scientific controversies around evolution, the rise of fundamentalism, and the court cases that have shaped the current discussion.

4. Differentiate between the four contemporary Christian perspectives on evolution (YEC, OEC, ID, EC), comparing and contrasting their beliefs regarding the interpretation of Genesis 1, the age of the Earth, the Fall, the Flood, evolution, and human origins.
5. Develop and critique their own understandings of science-faith relations.

## Textbooks

*Four Views of Creation, Evolution, and Intelligent Design*, by Deb Haarsma, Stephen C. Meyer, Hugh Ross, and Ken Ham  
*The Fool and the Heretic*, by Todd Wood and Darrel Falk

Additional readings will be provided throughout the semester.

## Covid and the syllabus

This syllabus, including the schedule and grading scheme, must be considered tentative. Updated syllabi will be made available as needed – particularly if the university gets closed for the semester.

The key this semester will be flexibility.

## Format of the class

This is an online-only class. It is being offered synchronously and asynchronously. Lectures are offered live but will be recorded for later viewing. **If participating synchronously, your videos must be ON and your audio MUTED unless asking questions.** For all students, a good portion of participation will occur over the Moodle discussion forum (see below).

## Ambrose Research Conference

The theme of ARC this year is Science and Faith. As such, participation at ARC will be included as 5% of your overall grade. Participation can take a variety of forms, including but not limited to: presenting your research paper at ARC (in person or pre-recorded), attending and writing a reflection on plenary talks, etc. Your intended participation needs to be approved by the professor prior to ARC.

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments due
Jan 12	Introduction	Barbour (1997)	
Jan 14	A basic guide to “creation”	Bishop et al. (2018)	
Jan 19	A basic guide to “science”	Benson et al. (2006) Dawkins (2006)	Autobiography
Jan 21	Realized science	Martin (1991)	
Jan 26	Ways of knowing	Ward (2008)	
Jan 28	Setting the stage for Darwin: Paley and Lamarck	Paley (1802)	
Feb 2	Darwin’s risky predictions	Darwin and Wallace (1858)	Paper topic due
Feb 4	Darwin’s God	Lamoureux (2013)	

		Hope (1915)	
Feb 9	Post-Darwinian controversies	Hodge (1874) Morris (2014)	
Feb 11	Darwin on trial	Larson (1997)	
Feb 16	READING BREAK		
Feb 18	READING BREAK		
Feb 23	Nature in the ANE	Genesis 1 (your version of choice) Enuma Elish	Book reflection due
Feb 25	Ways of reading Genesis One	Genesis 1:1-2:7 (Scofield Study Bible, 1917, including notes) Letham (1999)*	
Mar 2	The birth of modern Creationisms	Numbers (2006) Whitcomb (2011)	
Mar 4	God on trial	NOVA documentary Wedge Strategy (1998) <b>Introduction</b>	
March 9	Creationisms today	Faith statements on websites: Answers in Genesis Reasons to Believe BioLogos <b>Ken Ham</b>	
March 11	Deep time I – Big Bang	<b>Response to Ken Ham and Rejoinder</b>	Research Paper Due
March 16	Deep time II – Ages	Davidson and Wolgemuth (2018) <b>Hugh Ross</b>	
March 18	Deep time III – Evolution	<b>Response to Hugh Ross and Rejoinder</b>	
March 23	Complexity and Fine-tuning	Behe (2005) <b>Deborah Haarsma</b>	
March 25	Created kinds	<b>Response to Deborah Haarsma and Rejoinder</b>	
March 30	The Flood	Genesis 6:5-9:17 <b>Stephen Meyer</b>	
<b>Wed, March 31 – AMBROSE RESEARCH CONFERENCE</b>			
April 1	Image	Genesis 2 <b>Response to Stephen Meyer and Rejoinder</b>	
April 6	God's good creation	Genesis 3 <b>Conclusion</b>	
April 8	Redemption	Dickey (1992)	
April 13	Call to action	An Evangelical Declaration on the Care of the Creation	Last day to post on forum
April 15	Special topic TBD		Final self-assessment due

Readings in BOLD are sections from your textbook, *Four Views on Creation, Evolution, and Intelligent Design*

## Requirements:

Participation – 20%

Self-reflection – 45%

Autobiography 5%

Book reflection 10%

Research paper or interview 25%

Final self-assessment 5%

ARC participation – 5%

Final exam – 30%

## Final exam

The final exam will be in take-home essay format.

## Participation

Discussion forums entitled “Science and Christian Faith Reading Reflections” and “Science and Faith in the News” have been posted on Moodle. This is a place for you to post thoughts, criticisms, or questions pertaining to a course reading, respond to other students, or post interesting links to videos or news articles that are pertinent to the discussion. Disrespectful posts will not be tolerated and could result in a 0 for the participation component of the course. The forum **will close April 13, 2021**. See the Participation handout for more information.

## Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

Grad	Percent	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96-100	4.00	Outstanding
A	92-96	4.00	Excellent - superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	88-92	3.70	
B+	83-88	3.30	
B	78-83	3.00	Good-clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	73-78	2.70	
C+	68-73	2.30	
C	64-68	2.00	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter. Grade point average below 2.00 is not sufficient for promotion.
C-	60-64	1.70	Minimum grade required if needed as a prerequisite course

D+	55-60	1.30	
D	50-55	1.00	Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	<50	0	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor’s assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

### Late assignment policies

Homework cannot be submitted late without cause and approval from the professor. Homework is **due by 11:59 pm** on the due date. Assignments are to be submitted electronically over Moodle. The penalty for late homework assignments are as follows:

- 20%/day for late assignments that are submitted within three days of the due date
- 0% on any assignments passed in three days after the due date, unless otherwise stated by the instructor. *These assignments will still be “graded” so that you can have feedback before the exam, even if your official grade is 0.*

**If your name is not on the assignment, it will not be graded and you will receive a grade of 0 for failing to submit an assignment.**

Missed final exams, without cause, cannot be made up. The only acceptable reason for missing an exam is illness, or death of an immediate family member. Traffic or weather is no reason for missing an exam.

### Plagiarism policy

All assignments will be submitted as one original piece of work per person.

See below for Ambrose’s statement defining plagiarism and outlining its consequences. In brief, it is your responsibility as a citizen of Ambrose to be aware of the policies of Ambrose and abide by them. Ignorance is no excuse. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited, to:

1. Copying an assignment from someone else and submitting it as your own work.
2. Working with a friend and writing down identical answers, whether you understand the content or not, and submitting the assignments separately.
3. Quoting directly from a source without supplying quotation marks or a citation.
4. Quoting directly from a source without supplying quotation marks, even if it is referenced.
5. Copying nearly word-for-word from a source, changing only the occasional word, without providing quotation marks, even if it is referenced.

6. Submitting an assignment in which >30% of the content is properly quoted; that is, at least 70% of the words in an assignment need to be your own. A general rule of thumb: for every line quoted, there should be three lines of your own material explaining that quote.
7. Submitting the same or similar assignment for more than one class, or more than one iteration of the same class.
8. Not citing illustrations used in a paper.

### **Penalties for plagiarism**

For a first offense in any one of my classes, a zero on the assignment with no chance of rewriting it, and a note in your academic file.

For a second offense in any one of my classes, a zero in the class, and recommendation for a note on your transcript.

For a third offense in any one of my classes, a zero in the class and a recommendation for expulsion from the university.

Note that Ambrose has an appeals process in place if you feel that allegations of plagiarism are unfounded; these are for final marks only, and not for individual assignments.

Note that my record of a student's past plagiarism does not reset with each semester.

### **Mental Health Support**

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

On Campus:

- Counselling Services: [ambrose.edu/counselling](http://ambrose.edu/counselling)
- Peer Supportive Listening: One-to-one support in Student Life office. Hours posted at [ambrose.edu/wellness](http://ambrose.edu/wellness).
- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention and Mental Health First Aid. See [ambrose.edu/crisissupport](http://ambrose.edu/crisissupport) for a list of staff members.

Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

### **Sexual Violence Support**

All staff, faculty, and Residence student leaders have received *Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure* training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need. There is a website with on and off campus supports – [ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness](http://ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness).

Off Campus:

- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888

## Ambrose University Academic Policies:

### Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

### Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

### Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

### Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a

laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

### Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).

### Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

### Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

### Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

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### Off Campus:

- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
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**Note:** Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.