Religion and Science

Required texts:
Miller, Crucible
Lem, Solaris
A Course Reader containing all other readings for this course will be on sale in Printing Office

Course requirements:
1. Two assigned essays – 4-5 pages each (25 %). At least one essay must be done before 6 May.
2. Midterm--multiple choice, short answer type (20%)
3. Final exam: essay type (40%)
4. Attendance and participation in Sections (15%)

Schedule of Class Meetings


8 Apr: The Meaning of Religion

13 Apr: The Life of Science
Zeldin, “How Curiosity Has Become the Key to Freedom,” 183-203 and “Why Fathers and their Children Are Changing their Minds about What They Want from Each Other,” 358-73

15 Apr: Science against Ideology/Religion
Popper, Conjectures and Refutations, ch 1, “Science: Conjectures & Refutations” : 33-9; Popper, The Unended Quest, 31-44

20 Apr: From Magic to Religion to Science?
Malinowski, “Magic, Science and Religion,” 17-41. “Science and Magic Join to Spur Nigerian’s Output” (newspaper clipping) and “Mauritanians Reassured on Eclipse” (newspaper clipping); Lévi-Strauss, “The Sorcerer and His Magic”

22 Apr: Religion as Science

27, 29 Apr: Explaining Evil: Science and Witchcraft

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4 May  
**When Darwin Was a Creationist**


6 May Midterm

11, 13 May  
**Darwin and Humanism**

*Film: “Inherit the Wind” (IN CLASS)  

18 May “Darwin” Bites: Spencer’s Social Darwinism


20 May Other Religions, Other Sciences: Hinduism and Buddhism


25, 27 May  
**Buddhism and Its Sciences: Cosmology, Rebirth and Karma**


1, 3 June  
**What Does It All Mean? How Can It All Mean?**


8, 10 June  
**Awkward Meanings in the Universe**

*Film: “Powers of Ten”  
Lem, *Solaris*; Russian Orthodox Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Music) and text.*
Assigned essays: Do two (2)

Due 8 Apr
1. on Zeldin, “What Becomes Possible When Soul-Mates Meet,” 465-72

Due 13 Apr:
2. on Zeldin, “How Curiosity Has Become the Key to Freedom,” 183-203
3. on Zeldin, “Why Fathers and their Children Are Changing their Minds about What They Want from Each Other,” 358-73

Due 15 Apr:
   Popper, The Unended Quest, 31-44

Due 20 Apr:
5. On Lévi-Strauss, “The Sorcerer and His Magic”

Due 22 Apr

Due 27 Apr:
7. Miller, The Crucible

Due 4 May:

Due 11:
9. On “Inherit the Wind”

Due 18 May:
10. On Spencer, “Social Statics and Social Dynamics”

Due 20 May:

Due 25 May:

Due 27 May:
13. On Stevenson, from Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation, pp. 1-34

Due 1 June:

Due 3 June:

8 June:

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16. On Lem, Solaris