



Biblical Creation on Solid Ground (15p/7.5cr)

Level: Basic

Subject area: Education studies/Philosophical Studies

Course code: PE 110

Course Prerequisites

General eligibility for university studies.

Course Goals

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- have good knowledge of the differences between the historical and metaphorical interpretations of Genesis 1-11, in particular their implications for our understanding of God's Creation, of man and of the gospel
- understand the main components of empirical science, and point out the main differences between the secular and non-secular approaches to science
- be acquainted with how the theory of evolution forms the basis for a secular worldview
- account for how Christians have interpreted Genesis 1-11 through the history of the church
- be familiar with some of the key scientific arguments for a literal interpretation of Genesis 1-11 from cosmology, thermodynamics/molecular biology, geology/paleontology, anatomy, paleoanthropology, and genetics.

Skills and Abilities

- be able to present some of the main theological arguments for Biblical Creation
- be able to present some of the main scientific arguments of Biblical Creation from cosmology, thermodynamics/molecular biology, geology/paleontology, anatomy, paleoanthropology and genetics
- be able to write a report that summarizes some of the main theological and scientific arguments for Biblical Creation
- be able to give arguments for why Biblical Creation is not in conflict with science
- be able to critically examine and identify the philosophical assumptions behind different articles or theories for questions of origin
- be well equipped to engage in conversations related to Biblical Creation.

Assessment and Approach

- give an account of Biblical Creation whereby the first 11 chapters of Genesis are interpreted

as historical text. Explain how these 11 chapters, according to Biblical Creation, lay the foundation for the rest of the Bible. In particular, explain how the statement “what God created was originally good” and the view of man as created uniquely in the image of God but fallen, fit in

- study some of the challenges associated with a metaphorical interpretation of the first 11 chapters of Genesis. In particular, explain the implications that the metaphorical and historical interpretations of these chapters have for the importance for the gospel
- give an account of how Christians have interpreted the first 11 chapters of Genesis through history
- understand how the theory of evolution is the foundation of a secular worldview, and in particular its view of man
- have some knowledge of philosophy of science, and use this as a tool for distinguishing between secular and biblical views of science. In particular, present arguments why Biblical Creation fulfils the requirements of the hypothetico-deductive method of empirical science
- present scientific evidence of Biblical Creation from various disciplines, including: cosmology and the origin of the universe, thermodynamics/molecular biology and the origin of information, geology/paleontology and the origin of the rocks and their fossils, anatomy and the origin of animal joints, geology/genetics and the origin of biblical kinds, paleoanthropology and the uniqueness of humans, genetics and the uniqueness of humans as well genetics and the history of humanity
- describe in which ways scientific evidence has strengthened Biblical Creation in recent years.

Course Contents

A study of Biblical Creation, based on a historical interpretation of the first eleven chapters of the Bible. Theological, philosophical, and scientific arguments for Biblical Creation are studied.

Course Procedures

The teaching consists of recorded online lessons, seminars, and individual/group assignments.

Examination

Evaluation Procedures:

A = 90-100	Excellent knowledge and a high degree of independent thinking
B = 80-89	Good level of knowledge and some independent thinking
C = 70-79	Basic knowledge and abilities
D = 60-69	Fulfilment of minimum requirements
F = below 60	Fail

Assignments:

The assignments, as listed below, are each assessed on a scale ranging from 59–100 %

Answers to study guide questions	55% (11 x 5%)
Activity during online seminars	15%
Written report	30%

TOTAL

100%

Description of assignments:

1. Active attendance of online seminars will be assessed.
2. Answers to the study guide questions will be assessed.
3. Written report on an optional topic of relevance for the course will be assessed.

Study and Assignment Schedule

Modules 1–11 consist of a) preparation in terms of reading and listening to a pre-recorded online lecture (OL), b) an online meeting where the contents of the module is discussed and students can ask questions, c) submitting answers to (a subset of) study guide questions (SGQs). Module 12 consists of writing of a report, on an optional topic of relevance for the course.

- Module 1 What is Biblical Creation? An overview. (Introduction of HL23, OL with panel discussion, SGQs of Chapter 0)
- Module 2 Theology (Chapter 1 and Sections 0.1, 0.3, 7.1, 7.6, 9.0 and 9.7 of HL23 and articles, OL with Gerdmar, SGQs of Chapter 1)
- Module 3 Philosophy (Chapter 2 of HL23, OL with Hössjer, SGQs of Chapter 2)
- Module 4 Cosmology (Chapter 4 of HL23, OL with Humphreys, SGQs of Chapter 4)
- Module 5 Anatomy and Intelligent Design (Chapter 5 of HL23, OL with Burgess, SGQs of Chapter 5)
- Module 6 Information, thermodynamics and molecular biology (Chapter 4 of HL23, OL with McIntosh, SGQs of Chapter 4)
- Module 7 Geology (Chapter 5 of HL23, OL with Walker, SGQs of Chapter 5)
- Module 8 Biblical kinds (Chapter 7 of HL23, OL with Tomkins, SGQs of Chapter 7)
- Module 9 Paleoanthropology (Chapter 8 of HL23, OL with Thomas, SGQs of Chapter 8)
- Module 10 Genetics and human uniqueness (Chapter 9 of HL23, OL with Carter, SGQs of Chapter 9)
- Module 11 Genetics and human history (Chapter 10 of HL23, OL with Jeanson, SGQs of Chapter 10)
- Module 12 WRITTEN REPORT DUE

Course Literature

Required Literature

Hössjer, Ola and Lampa, Samuel (eds.) *Biblical Creation on Solid Grounds – Arguments from Science, Philosophy, and Theology*. Uppsala: STH Academic, 2023. (Abbreviated as HL23)

Recommended Literature

- Batten, Don, David Catchpoole, Jonathan D. Sarfati, and Carl Wieland. *The Creation Answers Book*. 8th ed. Powder Springs, GA: Creation Book Publishers, 2019.
- Morris III, Henry M., John D. Morris, Randy J. Guliuzza, Jeffrey P. Tomkins, Vernon R. Cupps, Brian Thomas, Timothy Clarey, Jake Herbert, Frank Sherwin, and James J.S. Johnson. *Creation Basics & Beyond*, second edition. Institute for Creation Research, 2020.
- Sarfati, Johathan D. *Refuting Evolution*, 5th edition. Powder Springs, Georgia: Creation

Ministries International, 2012.
Sarfati, Johathan D. *The Genesis Account. A Theological, Historical, and Scientific Commentary on Genesis 1-11*, third edition. Powder Springs, Georgia: Creation Book Publishers, 2018.

Other articles and texts may be available at the course start.

For more information see also "General Syllabus Policies."

Syllabus completed 2023-05-10.
Syllabus is valid from 2023-08-28.