God and Nature in the Pre-Scientific World
HSCI 2453
MWF 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm
Carnegie Building 0225

Professor: Kathleen Crowther
Office: PHSC 602
Office hours: MWF 9-10 and 1:30-2:30; OR BY APPOINTMENT
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Course Description:
This course explores the changing and multifaceted relationship between science and religion throughout the history of western culture from the ancient Greeks up to the seventeenth century. We will discuss incidents of collaboration as well as conflict between Christianity and scientific investigation. Topics include the incorporation of Greek science into biblical interpretation, the Galileo affair, anatomical dissection and the search for the soul, and alchemy and the quest for the Philosopher's Stone.

Course Requirements:
Quizzes: You must complete an on-line quiz on the material from the lecture and readings at the end of each week (except weeks 14 and 16). This must be completed by midnight on Sunday. (So the quiz for week 1 must be completed by midnight on Sunday, August 26.) These quizzes are open-note and open-book, and you are free to talk with one another about them, but once you start a quiz you only have 20 minutes to complete it. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.
Participation: Your informed participation in class discussions is required. Discussions are based on the assigned reading, so you must complete this reading before you come to class.
Attendance is mandatory. Papers: You will write four 3-page response essays on assigned topics. There is an essay prompt for each week (except weeks 14 and 16). These prompts will be posted on D2L. You can choose which four prompts you would like to answer, but you must choose two from before Week 8 and two from after. These essays are due Sunday at midnight. (So if you choose to write on the Week 2 prompt, the essay is due by midnight on Sunday, September 2.) Once you miss the deadline, you may not write on that week's prompt. These essays should be deposited in the electronic drop box on D2L. If you receive a grade lower than a B on one of these essays, you may talk with me about rewriting the paper for a better grade.
Final exam: The final exam will consist of two essay questions. The exam is open-note and open-book and the possible questions will be posted on D2L. You are not permitted to bring a pre-written answer to the exam or to use the internet during the exam.

Course Reading:
All readings are on D2L.

Note:
Please use your OU email account, or arrange for email to be forwarded from that account to the one you use. This will ensure that you receive course-related emails. I encourage you to check
Reading: Andreas Vesalius, *On the fabric of the human body (De humani corporis fabrica)*, pp. TBA

Nov 14. Anatomy and the soul
Reading: TBA

Nov 16. Anatomy and the origins of life
Reading: TBA

**Week 14**

Nov 19. TOUR OF HISTORY OF SCIENCE COLLECTIONS. MEET ON 5TH FLOOR OF BIZZELL LIBRARY.

Nov 21. THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS

Nov 23. THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS

**Week 15**

Nov 26. The Devil and forbidden knowledge: The legend of Faust
Christopher Marlowe, *Faust*, pp. TBA

Nov 28. Witches and the natural order
Reading: Kramer and Sprenger, *Hammer of Witches*, excerpts

Nov 30. Demons and the new science
Reading: Kepler, *Dream*, excerpts

**Week 16**

Dec 3. Alchemy: Searching for the philosopher’s stone

Dec 5. Paracelsus

Dec 7. Robert Boyle and John Dee

**Final Exam:** Wednesday, December 12, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, Carnegie Building 0225