

Philosophy 2330: Philosophy of Science
Spring 2022
Third short essay assignment

Please complete your essay and upload it into Blackboard before 11:59pm on Tuesday, Mar 8th.

You are to write roughly one to two pages (500-800 words) answering any one the following questions (or a combination of them).

1) In “When Faith and Reason Clash: Evolution and the Bible”, Alvin Plantinga argues that evolutionary theory is not religiously neutral. What does he mean by this and why does he believe it? Do you think he is right? Do you think that your theological views should influence how you think about the scientific evidence for evolution? What about arguments from design? Should your theological views influence how strong those arguments are?

2) In describing his own view about the relationship between scientific and religious claims, Plantinga says, “So I can properly correct my view as to what reason teaches by appealing to my understanding of Scripture; and I can properly correct my understanding of Scripture by appealing to the teachings of reason” (122). How does this compare to the Doctrine of the Two Books discussed in Clark’s book? How do you think that a Christian (or really, anyone at all) should think about scientific claims and the evidence we have for them? Is one of these views better than the other? Why? Feel free to describe some third view if you think it would be better.

3) Near the end of his essay, Plantinga suggests, “Finally, in all the areas of academic endeavor, we Christians must think about the matter at hand from a Christian perspective; we need Theistic Science. ... What we really need are answers to our questions from the perspective of *all* that we know—what we know about God, and what we know by faith, by way of revelation, as well as what we know in other ways” (141). What is he suggesting about the relationship between scientific and religious claims? How does what he says relate to “Methodological Naturalism”? Do you think that this is how a Christian (or anyone at all) should think about scientific claims? Why or why not?