

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

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TITLE: Humanity in a Scientific Age **TERM:** Fall 2020-2021

PROFESSOR: Ron Cole-Turner **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____ UNLIMITED X
AUDITORS: 2 NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the relationship between scientific and technology perspectives on humanity and the insights of Christian theology, past and present. Recent scientific research on human evolution has led to a new perspective that complicates the way theology understands science, while today's technology offers many ways in which evolved humanity may be modified further. Students will be invited to consider these developments in light of Christian theology and to explore the implications of science for Christology, eschatology, and pastoral theology.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

This course will form pastoral theologians who will:

- Exhibit a working knowledge of the current view on human origins held by foremost experts in the field.
- Exhibit a working knowledge of the ways in which technology may be used to modify human beings and humanity as a whole.
- Demonstrate a thoughtful engagement with science and technology, showing the ability to integrate scientific insight with biblical and theological perspectives on humanity, sin, salvation, redemption, and eschatological transformation.
- Critically evaluate emerging theological proposals that seek to respond to scientific and technological perspectives on humanity.

PREREQUISITES: None.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Ron Cole-Turner, *The End of Adam and Eve: Theology and the Science of Human Origins* (2016). \$5.99. 978-0998068602
- Chapters from other books and journal articles in biblical interpretation and theology, and journal articles from science publications. All these will be provided free on the course web portal.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

This course will be conducted as a seminar, and students will be asked to prepare brief presentation summarizing a portion of the readings. In addition, students will be assigned four brief papers focusing on (1) a recent development in human origins research; (2) its theological significance; (3) a recent technological advance in the modification of humanity; and (4) its theological/ethical/pastoral significance (MDiv SLO 2). Depending on the enrollment, each student will have the opportunity to present one or two of these papers during the seminar for discussion.

ATTENDANCE: Required.