Course Syllabus

Course Number: RE 413
Description: Special Studies in Natural Science
Spring 2010
Instructor: Dr. Darrell Kirchner, Ph.D. (chemistry)
Contact information: dkirchner@jacksonville-college.edu; cell 903 780-0448

Meeting Time: Thursdays from 6:00-9:00 from January 28, 2010 through May 13 (final).


Suggested additional reading:


Behe, Michael J., Darwin’s Black Box, Free Press, 1996.


Description: Studies in various facets of natural science are made. These may include physics, chemistry, ecology, and biology. Emphasis is generally given to origins and scientific method.

Overview: Science and the Christian faith have often been viewed as representing opposing philosophies of natural origins. This course strives to explore the universe from a strictly natural perspective and discover from that the “hidden attributes” of God as stated in Romans 1:20 “For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” NIV

Content: This content shown below is tentative. Content can vary depending on the interest of the class or at direction of the administration.

I. Science – What is it? (This topic includes the inductive scientific method, the encouragement for science in scripture, and past fallibilities in the scientific community). Establish ground rules for discussions.

II. Creation other than life (stars, earth, physical constants). Scientific areas of interest will include astronomy, geology, chemistry, physics and various dating methods including carbon dating. As an aside, we need to discuss Scripture and translation.
III. Evolution – How the evolutionary theory began and how it has changed. We will discuss the necessity by atheists for the evolutionary theory to be true.

IV. Life – How knowledge of life’s mechanisms has changed since Darwin. This section includes the concept of irreducible complexity.

V. Politics of science. How funding and employment opportunities require conformity to accepted beliefs. (I would like to find a copy of Ben Stein’s “Expelled” video). This section may be out of chronological order.

**General information:** Regulations found in the catalog and student handbook will be applicable to the course.

**Grading:** The method of calculating a final grade is still being considered. This aspect will be finalized by the time the course begins. However, the student should plan to submit written reports on assigned material. Tests will be of the essay type.