

Theology and the Science: Varieties of Religious Naturalism (TS454)
Meadville Lombard Theological School
Fall 2010, Fridays 9-12
Professor Mike Hogue

Course Description

This course examines ways of relating religion, theology, and the sciences through varieties of religious naturalism. We will begin analytically with readings that explore the meanings of naturalism and engage some of naturalism's critics. Following this initial analytic work, we will explore some of the historical western contexts for thinking through the relations between philosophy, theology, and nature. After the analytical and contextual stages of the course, we will then examine select contemporary constructive expressions of religious naturalism. Themes to be explored may include but are not limited to the dynamics and configurations of religious traditions in relation to the natural sciences, religious naturalism and ethics, and the social and spiritual possibilities and challenges of religious naturalism. Course objectives include 1) familiarizing students with diverse expressions of religious naturalism; 2) exploring religious naturalisms' metaphysical, methodological, and moral implications; 3) and providing occasion for students to engage religious naturalism as an increasingly vital form of contemporary religious thought and practice.