



THE EPIC OF CREATION  
 Scientific, Biblical, and Theological  
 Perspectives on Our Origins



FALL 2010

Chaired by Gayle Woloschak

Monday Evenings 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM, September 13 through December 6, 2010

Room 201, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 1100 East 55th Street, Chicago, IL 60615 (Please note our new room number.)

We invite you to this unique course and lecture series that will present the scientific story of the emergence and evolution of the universe, life, and humans; provide exegeses of the biblical story of creation; and offer theological reflections on the Epic of Creation.

Leading scientists will tell the scientific story of our origins as inferred from records in starlight, rocks, and fossils. Noted biblical scholars will present exegeses of the biblical story of the world's beginnings and continuing creation as found in the Old and New Testaments and in the myths of other civilizations that shaped biblical concepts of creation. Distinguished theologians will reflect on issues and questions raised by the stories and their implications for Christian understandings of the world, humanity, and God. Throughout we will explore the meaning of the stories, asking what they tell us about the nature of our universe, about human nature, and about our origins and destinies.

Offered by the Zygon Center for Religion and Science (ZCRS), the Epic of Creation course is designed as a graduate-level seminary course and public lecture series. All lectures are free and open to the public. Course credit is available via registration through the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) or cross-registration through member schools of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS); the course number is LSTC T-456. For more information, please visit [www.zygoncenter.org](http://www.zygoncenter.org), email [zcrs@lstc.edu](mailto:zcrs@lstc.edu), or call 773-256-0670.

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|-------------------|---|
| Sept 13 (6:30 PM) | The Ongoing Creation of Stars, Planets, and, Possibly, Life: <i>Grace Wolf-Chase</i> , astrophysics, Adler Planetarium/ University of Chicago                     |
| Sept 13 (8:00 PM) | The Origin of It All: <i>Dan Hooper</i> , astrophysics, Fermilab/University of Chicago  |
| Sept 20 (6:30 PM) | The Origin of Life: <i>Tajana Paunesku</i> , molecular biology, Northwestern University   |
| Sept 20 (8:00 PM) | Molecular Evolution/Evolution of the Body Plan: <i>Gayle Woloschak</i> , molecular biology, Northwestern University/ Zygon Center for Religion and Science [ZCRS] |
| Sept 27 (6:30 PM) | The Story of Creation from Hydrogen to the Earth: <i>Donald York</i> , astrophysics, University of Chicago  |
| Sept 27 (8:00 PM) | Title TBA: <i>J. Matt Ashley</i> , theology, University of Notre Dame   |
| Oct 4 (6:30 PM)   | The Radiation of Genus Homo and the Origin of Modern Humans: <i>Fred Smith</i> , anthropology, Illinois State University  |
| Oct 4 (8:00 PM)   | Primate Precursors to Human Behavior: <i>Paul Heltne</i> , primatology, ZCRS  |
| Oct 11 (6:30 PM)  | Social and Cultural Responses to Evolution: <i>Barbara Strassberg</i> , sociology, Aurora University  |
| Oct 11 (8:00 PM)  | The Greco-Roman Context for New Testament Ideas of Cosmogony and Cosmography: <i>Edgar Krentz</i> , New Testament, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago [LSTC]  |
| Oct 18 (6:30 PM)  | Biological Evolution from the Cambrian Explosion to the Appearance of Higher Primates: <i>James Hopson</i> , biology, University of Chicago                       |
| Oct 18 (8:00 PM)  | The Evolution of Culture and the Capacity for Culture in the Human Descent Line: <i>William Irons</i> , anthropology, Northwestern University                     |
| Oct 25 (6:30 PM)  | New Testament Views of Creation: <i>Robert Brawley</i> , New Testament, McCormick Theological Seminary [MTS]  |
| Oct 25 (8:00 PM)  | Old Testament Views of the World's Beginnings: <i>Theodore Hiebert</i> , Old Testament, MTS   |
| Nov 1 (6:30PM)    | Title TBA: <i>Ghulam-Haider Aasi</i> , American Islamic College and LSTC  |
| Nov 1 (8:00 PM)   | Title TBA: <i>James F. Moore</i> , theology, Valparaiso University  |
| Nov 8 (6:30 PM)   | The Ancient Near Eastern Background for Hebrew Conceptions of Creation: <i>Bernard Batto</i> , religious studies, DePauw University                               |
| Nov 8 (8:00 PM)   | The New Testament on Creation: <i>Edgar Krentz</i> , New Testament, LSTC  |
| Nov 15 (6:30 PM)  | "What is a transitional form? Or why 'mammal-like reptiles' aren't reptiles": <i>Kenneth Angielczyk</i> , Field Museum  |
| Nov 15 (8:00 PM)  | Evolution, the Law, and Social Policy: <i>Richard Busse</i> , theology, ZCRS  |
| Nov 22            | No Lectures (Thanksgiving Break at LSTC)  |
| Nov 29 (6:30 PM)  | Reconstructing a Christian Theology of Nature: <i>Anna Case-Winters</i> , theology, McCormick Theological Seminary  |
| Nov 29 (8:00 PM)  | "Life" Lessons: Field Notes from Early Modernity on the Epic of Creation: <i>Lea Schweitz</i> , theology, LSTC/ZCRS   |
| Dec 6 (6:30 PM)   | The Epic of Creation—What Does It Mean?: <i>Philip Hefner</i> , theology, LSTC/ZCRS   |
| Dec 6 (8:00 PM)   | Panel Discussion  |

### About the Epic of Creation Course

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*yoking religious traditions  
and scientific knowledge*

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