Many people have believed that science and religion are contraries. Science is often considered the paradigm of humans’ rational thoughts that fight against all kinds of ignorance, bigotry, and superstition, which may include religious thoughts and practices. However, many historians of science after the late twentieth century have found that the relationship between science and religion is far more complex. In some cases, religions do hamper and suppress some scientists’ claims and activities, but religions can also be a positive factor in the construction of scientific ideas and worldviews, including those for the rise of modern science. This course aims at your deeper understanding of this complexity in a historical depth.

Assessment:

Midterm Paper (35%) [Due by 7 March]
Final Paper (35%) [Due by 25 April]
Pre-Class Questions (10%)
Group Discussion Reports (10%)
Participation (10%)
Weekly Readings:

Week 1 Introduction (17 January)

Week 2 European Antiquity (24 January)
Harrison, *Territories of Science and Religion*, pp. 21-54.

Week 3 Medieval Islamic World (31 January)

Week 4 Medieval Europe (7 February)
Peter Harrison, *Territories of Science and Religion*, pp. 55-81, 136-141.

Week 5 Scientific Revolution (14 February)
Week 6 Trial of Galileo (21 February)
David Lindberg, “Galileo, the Church, and the Cosmos,” in When Science & Christianity Meet, pp. 33-60.

Week 7 Science, God, and the New Era of the Western World (28 February)

Week 8 Darwinism and Religion (13 March)

Week 9 Scopes Trial (20 March)

Week 10 Creation Science in America (27 March)

Week 11 Creation Science in the World (3 April)

Week 12 Genetically Modified Organisms (TBA)

Week 13 Religions and Modern Communication Technologies (17 April)
Steve Bruce, Pray TV: Televangelism in America (New York: Routledge, 1990), chapter 2, 6

Essay Assignments:
You are expected to write your midterm and final papers in accordance with questions prepared by the professor. These questions will be given in 3 weeks ahead of the deadline. You can refer to any sources to answer the questions, but at least 2 readings in the syllabus must be cited.

How to Find Readings:
All readings are available in NTULearn’s course portal. Most books used in the course will also be found in the NTU libraries.

Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is a serious academic misconduct and may endanger a student’s career in a highly severe way. It is done intentionally or unintentionally using another person’s ideas and writings without any proper citation and/or quotation marks. Collusion, which may involve a close collaboration in completing an assignment, is another problem. Unless instructed otherwise, your midterm assignment should be done by yourself alone. Paraphrasing is an act of rewriting other people’s ideas or arguments using your own words. While this is an acceptable practice in most cases, it can be an issue if you do not indicate that the ideas have come from another person’s works. If you are not sure about how you should do regarding these issues, please do cite the referred sources in footnotes/endnotes and use the quotation marks around the terms you did not originally write. Even if you cited the source, your paper can be a problem without the proper use of quotation marks. If any plagiarized sentence or paragraph is detected, the grade will be reduced to zero.