

Course Proposal for Revised General Education Courses: **History 3700G**

1. Catalog Description

1. Course level: HIS 3700G
2. Title: Turning Points in the History of Religion and Science
3. Credit: 3-0-3
4. Term to be offered: F, S
5. Short Title: Rel and Science
6. Course Description: What is nature? How do humans understand it and the place of humans within it? In Europe between 1500 and 1800, a revolution occurred in how humans came to answer these questions. Yet this was not just a "scientific revolution." Rather, ideas about nature were deeply intertwined with religious and political beliefs. This course investigates the relationships among political, religious, and scientific developments during the age of the Scientific Revolution.
7. Prerequisite: None
8. The course is writing active

2. Student learning objectives

1. General Education objectives

- (1) Students' exposure to the clear expression and close and precise reasoning characteristic of most of the required readings will provide them with excellent examples of good writing and argumentation (write effectively, think critically).
- (2) Students will be required to write papers comparing and contrasting the views in the various readings (write effectively, think critically).
- (3) Students' study of Adam Smith and Karl Marx will lead them to see they function in a larger social totality (citizenship).
- (4) By the study of world views, students will learn that the most basic ideas they think are "natural" or obvious are actually cultural constructions (think critically).

2. Other objectives

- (1) Showing that the roots of the most important modern viewpoints lie deep in the past will reveal to students their place in an historical continuum.
- (2) Acquainting students with examples of great scientists pursuing knowledge, with no reference to practical applications, clearly will reveal how disinterested learning can be a magnificent externalization of the human spirit.

3. Course Outline

Week	Content
1	The religious universe. Eastern religions. Christianity
2	Synthesis of the Christian universe with science's: Ptolemy, Aristotle
3	Difficulties with science's view: Problem of the planets, Aristotle's theory of motion
4	The Renaissance and the pagan alternative
5	Christian humanism: Corruption of the religious tradition
6	Protestant Reformation and religious relativism
7	Scientific Revolution and Copernicus
8	Galileo: Evidence for Copernicus, attack on Aristotle's physics
9	Kepler and the problem of the planets
10	Newton and the new view of the universe
11	Science and social science: Adam Smith and Karl Marx
12	Geology and the history of the Earth
13	Darwin and the new creation story of the Western World
14	Freud and the soul of modern man
15	Crisis of the modern view

4. Evaluation of student learning

1. Student achievement will be evaluated by nine quizzes based on the reading assignments (30%), three papers on the reading assignments (40%), and a final essay examination (30%).
- b. The papers and the final essay exam fulfill the requirements of a writing active course.

5. Rationale

1. This course will be placed in the Social and Behavioral Sciences segment of the general education program. By focusing on the world view of Western culture, students will become aware of the many unstated (and largely unconscious) assumptions that underpin almost all their thinking on the human condition. In addition they will learn that social problems often result from a conflict of values with new social realities.
2. The course is listed at the 3000 level because the subject matter is quite advanced and information students gather from other courses, e.g. sciences, mathematics, literature, philosophy will be helpful to them.
3. The course is not similar to any other courses
4. The course may count to fulfill requirements in the Social and Behavioral Sciences segment of the general education program, as a 3000 level non-U. S. course in the history major, and as a 3000 level course in the history major (where U. S. and non-U. S. is not specified).

6. **Implementation**

1. The course will be initially assigned to John McElligott and David Smith.
2. Textbooks
 - Alan Watts, *The Way of Zen* (1957)
 - Mortimer Adler, *Aristotle for Everybody* (1980)
 - Desiderus Erasmus, "Handbook of a Militant Christian," John P. Dolan, ed., *The Essential Erasmus* (1964)
 - Maurice A. Finocchiaro, *The Galileo Affair* (1989)
 - Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* (1986)
 - Adam Smith, "On the Wealth of Nations," abrgd. and ed., Robert L. Heilbroner, *The Essential Adam Smith*
 - Karl Marx, "The German Ideology, Part I," Robert C. Tucker, ed., *The Marx-Engels Reader* (1978)
 - Sigmund Freud, *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis* (1977)
3. No additional costs to students.
4. The course will next be offered in fall, 2000.

7. **Community College Transfer**

A community college course will not be judged equivalent to this course.

8. **Date approved by the department:** 3/20/2000

9. **Date approved by the college curriculum committee:** 3/29/2000

10. **Date approved by the CAA:** 10/19/2000

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