

Science and Religion: A New Introduction

By Alister E. McGrath

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Now thoroughly updated to reflect the latest debates, this popular textbook introduces readers to the central questions in the field of science and religion. Ideally suited to those who have little or no prior knowledge in either area, it incorporates numerous student-friendly features, including maps, summaries, and historical references, resulting in the most up-to-date introduction to the study of religion and the natural sciences available.

- Examines the historical, theological, philosophical and scientific aspects of the interaction between religion and science
- Fully updated to reflect current, cutting-edge debates on scientific atheism and the limits of scientific method, and discussions about the relationship between science and religion in major world faiths
- Includes a historical component to enable readers to orientate themselves within the subject
- Takes a topic based approach which fits into the existing structure of most courses, and includes explanatory material not found in other works of this kind, making it highly accessible for those with little scientific or religious background knowledge
- Incorporates illustrations, tables, maps, summaries and questions for a lively and engaging approach to the subject
- Written by world-renowned theologian, Alister McGrath; author of bestselling books such as *Dawkins' God*, and an acknowledged expert in the field of science and religion

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
McGrath's argument in this book is schematic. He begins with three turning points in the history of science: the Copernican and Galilean controversies, the mechanistic universe of Newton and the upset caused by Darwin's theory of evolution. According to McGrath, these landmarks shaped the question of whether religion is an "ally" or an "enemy" of science. It is his contention that both responses have had considerable impact on religion over the last two centuries, in the form of liberalism, modernism, neo-orthodoxy and evangelicalism. These four strands of Christian theology have developed both confrontational and nonconfrontational models of the relationship between religion and science. McGrath outlines the impact of philosophers of science, such as Karl Popper and Thomas Kuhn, on religion as well as the impact of the philosophy of religion on scientific questions. He also explores the use of models and analogies in science and religion and devotes two chapters to an examination of issues and case studies. Most helpful are his short summaries of the positions of key thinkers in this dialogue: Ian Barbour, Arthur Peacocke, John Polkinghorne and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, among others. McGrath's book provides a useful starting point for those entering the study of science and religion.
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Review
Praise for the previous edition of Science and Religion:

"A first rate introduction to the field." (*Network*)

"McGrath discusses clearly and methodically the various issues related to the field … Fair and objective." (*Choice*)

"A useful starting point for those entering the study of science and religion." (*Publishers Weekly*)

Review
'A wonderfully clear and readable introduction to key issues in science and religion. McGrath is uniquely qualified to write on this topic, and his mastery of the field is apparent on every page of this excellent volume'.
—**Peter Harrison**, Harris Manchester College, Oxford

“Kudos to scientist-theologian Alister McGrath for this accessible and well-informed overview of science-faith dialogue, from yesterday’s Copernican revolution to today’s psychology of religion, and for his vision of a natural theology that helps make sense of what science observes.”
David G. Myers, Hope College

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