



# SCIENCE & FAITH IN DIALOGUE COURSE



**[www.scienceandfaithonline.org](http://www.scienceandfaithonline.org)**

Organized by:



ATENEU UNIVERSITARI **SANT PACIÀ**  
**FACULTAT DE TEOLOGIA**  
DE CATALUNYA

Under the Patronage of:



**PONTIFICAL COUNCIL**  
**FOR**  
**CULTURE**



**John**  
**Templeton**  
**Foundation**



## SCIENCE & FAITH IN DIALOGUE COURSE

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## 1. Description of the Course

- This is the **1st online Catholic course that sets out to spread knowledge and understanding of the dialogue between science and faith**. It is organized and delivered by the Theological Faculty of Catalonia (Barcelona, Spain), under the patronage of the Pontifical Council for Culture and the John Templeton Foundation.
- **We find ourselves now at one of the best historical moments for the dialogue between science and theology**, however, this dialogue has been conducted until now only within academia. It is now necessary for disclosure of these positive results to take place at a cultural level as well. We wish to make a contribution to the New Evangelization by trying to overcome one of the major cultural fallacies, the belief that science is completely opposed to faith.
- **The course is directed towards everyone, but in a very special way to those people who have an educational role in the Church**: priests, deacons, Catholic school teachers, religious, catechists, students in secular universities, seminarians, etc.
- It is **an academic course with worldwide delivery** whose online format permits it to reach people who may not otherwise have access to theological studies due to their timetables or locations.
- We wish it to be **a course in which science relates to humanistic culture**. For this reason, we make wide use of, and numerous references to, music and works of art.
- The lessons are **written and delivered by experts in the dialogue between science and faith**, such as: Giuseppe Tanzella-Nitti; David Jou; Manuel García Doncel; Rafael A. Martínez Romeo; Armand Puig; Emili Marlés; Lluc Torcal; Tomasz Trafny; Gennaro Auletta; Joan Planellas; Francesc Nicolau; Justo Aznar; and Margarita Bofarull.
- The English version of the course **will be launched on February 9, 2016**. It will be possible to commence this course three times a year: February, June and October.
- We wish our Science and Faith course to be **accessible to everyone everywhere, regardless of location or financial situation**. It is a **non-profit-making** course, and this enables us to award standardised grants worldwide of up to 85% of the course fees, depending upon the national average earnings per capita of the country in which our students live. All proceeds from the course go to support the course and to the development of new initiatives that will foster the dialogue between science and faith.
- The price of the 12 lesson course with tutor assistance in English is \$290. However, depending upon the country of residence a student can study this course for as little as \$25.



## 2. What are our lessons like?

This course has materials that have been very carefully developed so as to provide a vibrant and interesting student experience, whilst employing a sound progressive pedagogical distance learning methodology. It is possible to view and examine any of our lessons on our website at: [www.scienceandfaithonline.org](http://www.scienceandfaithonline.org)

### Each lesson consists of:

- **A video that introduces the lesson lasting some 12 to 15 minutes.** These videos were produced by the company “Alter Video” of Barcelona, and were recorded in locations of a high cultural value. In these the Professor presents their lesson to the student and accompanies his explanation with mini-documentaries.
- **A core lesson text of 15** pages prepared by our specialist Professors, in which we have embedded elements of internet-learning such as: explanatory videos, texts to ponder, recordings, art, music, etc.
- **An “Extended Learning” section** with links, articles, websites, books and videos that delve further into the subject matter.
- **A summary video, a “Lesson in 3 minutes”,** in which the Professor highlights the key points of the lesson.
- **An “Autotest”** – a self-test online questionnaire the student can use to test their knowledge of the lesson.
- **An online Debate,** with 4 questions for each lesson, in which students are able to engage with each other and discuss what they are learning, with moderation provided by one of our tutors
- **A Written Assignment.** Students must produce a 3-page written assignment for each lesson which is evaluated by our tutors.
- **3 Week Lessons.** Each lesson lasts for 3 weeks and calls for a commitment of 3 to 4 hours a week.
- **Specialist Tutors.** The Tutors who accompany and guide the students are experts in the dialogue between science and faith.



### 3. Science and Faith Course Content (24 lessons over 2 courses)

#### First Course (lessons 1-12)

1. "Galileo and the Dialogue Between Science and Faith." Professor Emili Marlés (Physicist and Theologian. Vice Dean of the Theological Faculty of Catalonia, Barcelona). Video recorded in the Astronomical Observatory FABRA of Barcelona.
2. "Was the World Made in 7 days or in 14,000,000,000 Years? Debating Genesis 1 and 2." Professor Armand Puig (Biblicist. Rector of the Ateneu Universitari Sant Pacià, Barcelona). Video recorded in the Theological Faculty of Catalonia, Barcelona)
3. "Investigating a Surprising Cosmos. The Richness of Reality». Prof Gennaro Auletta (Philosopher. Gregorian Pontifical University, Rome). Video recorded in the Benedictine Monastery of Montserrat, Catalonia.
4. "How does Science Know Reality? The Scientific Method». Prof Gennaro Auletta (Philosopher. Gregorian Pontifical University, Rome). Video recorded in the Benedictine Monastery of Montserrat, Catalonia.
5. "Theology: A Gateway to Reality or Pure Mythology? Theology and Truth." Professor Joan Planellas (Theologian. Dean of the Theological Faculty of Catalonia, Barcelona). Video recorded in the National Museum of Art, Barcelona. (Romanic Art Section).
6. "An Uneasy Dialogue: The Relationship Between Theology and Science Throughout History". Professor Manuel García Doncel (Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Physics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Theologian, and Historian of Science). Video recorded in the "Blue Museum", (Museum of Natural History), Barcelona.
7. "What has the Cosmic Evolution of our Universe Been Like?" Professor David Jou Miravent (Chair of Condensed Material Physics, Autonomous University Barcelona). Video recorded in "CosmoCaixa", the Science Museum of Barcelona
8. "Theories of Biological Evolution». Professor David Jou Miravent (Chair of Condensed Material Physics, Autonomous University Barcelona). Video recorded in "CosmoCaixa", the Science Museum of Barcelona
9. "What Does "God Created the Universe" Actually Mean? Classical Creation Theology". Professor Lluç Torcal (Physicist y Philosopher. Prior (Poblet), Procurator General of the Cistercian Order). Video recorded in the Cistercian Abbey of Poblet.
10. "A World Created by God». Professor Lluç Torcal (Physicist y Philosopher. Prior (Poblet), Procurator General of the Cistercian Order). Video recorded in the Cistercian Abbey of Poblet.
11. "Jesus Christ. What Has He Got to do with Cosmic Evolution?" Professor Emili Marlés (Physician and





Theologian. Vice Dean, Theological Faculty of Catalonia, Barcelona. Video recorded in the Monastery of Pedralbes, Barcelona.

12. "A dialogue with Science that Enriches Theology. The New Concept of "Evolutionary Creation": Professor Emili Marlés (Physician and Theologian). Vice Dean, Theological Faculty of Catalonia, Barcelona. Video recorded in the Monastery of Pedralbes, Barcelona.

## Second Course (lessons 13-24)

13. "Creation as *Liber Naturae*: Creation and Revelation». Professor Giuseppe Tanzella-Nitti (Physicist and Theologian). Professor of the Università della Santa Croce in Rome). Video recorded in the College of the Teresianas, Calle Ganduxer, Barcelona (Antoni Gaudí).
14. "Theories Regarding Evolution and Hominids." Professor Francesc Nicolau (Mathematician and Philosopher. Emeritus Professor of the Philosophical Faculty of the Ramon Llull University, Deputy Director of the Geological Museum of the Seminary of Barcelona). Video recorded in the Geological Museum of the Seminary of Barcelona.
15. "Did God Intervene in the Creation of the First Man? And in the Creation of Every Man?" Professor Giuseppe Tanzella-Nitti (Physicist and Theologian). Professor of the Università della Santa Croce in Rome). Video recorded in the College of the Teresianas, Calle Ganduxer, Barcelona (Antoni Gaudí).
16. "The Origin of Human Life and Embryonic Development». Professor Margarita Bofarull (Doctor of Medicine and Theologian. Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life). Video recorded in the Hospital de Saint Paul and the Holy Cross, Barcelona.
17. "Cloning and Adult Stem Cells». Professor Justo Aznar (Medical Doctor, Emeritus Professor of the Catholic University of Valencia. Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life). Video recorded in the Hospital de Saint Paul and the Holy Cross, Barcelona.
18. "Can I Expect to See a Miracle in My Lifetime? (Theology of Miracles)". Professor Emili Marlés (Physician and Theologian. Vice Dean, Theological Faculty of Catalonia, Barcelona). Video recorded in the Museum of Technology (Terrasa), and in the Romanic Churches of the Seu d'Egara.
19. "In a Universe in Evolution, Can We Say that Man Has Been Created in the Image and Likeness of God?" Professor Joan Planellas (Theologian. Dean of the Theological Faculty of Catalonia). Video recorded in the Museum of Archaeology of Catalonia, Barcelona.
20. "The Church and Darwinism". Professor Rafael A. Martínez (Philosopher of Science. Dean of the Philosophical Pontifical University of the Santa Croce, Rome). Recorded in the Blue Museum, Barcelona.
21. "What does "He Rose Again from the Dead" Mean?" Professor Armand Puig (Biblicist. Rector of the Ateneo Universitario de Sant Pacià, Barcelona). Recorded in the Montjuic Cemetery of Barcelona.

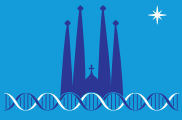


22. "Anthropology and Neuroscience". Professor Tomasz Trafny (Theologian and Official of the Pontifical Council for Culture, Rome). Video recorded in "Dali's" Theatre Museum in Figueras, Catalonia.
23. "The End of Our Universe According to Science». Professor David Jou Miravent, (Chair of Condensed Material Physics, Autonomous University of Barcelona). Recorded in the Ebro Observatory.
24. "The End of Our Universe According to Theology». Professor Lluç Torcal (Physicist y Philosopher. Prior (Poblet), Procurator General of the Cistercian Order). Video recorded in the Basilica of the Sacred Family, Barcelona (Antoni Gaudí).

## 4. Some results of the "Science and Faith in Dialogue" course in Spanish

- Accessible in Spanish at: [www.scienceandfaithbcn.com](http://www.scienceandfaithbcn.com)
- The delivery of the course in Spanish commenced in October 2013
- Up until now 750 students have studied the course worldwide: 256 from Latin American countries; of which 150 have been teachers in Catholic schools.
- We provided a significantly discounted course to all the countries of Latin America, with students paying a minimum of 20 euros for the entire 12 lesson course. If the total amount of grant aid given to students is added up it equates to 25% of all students studying the course at no cost.
- Student feedback demonstrates a very positive attitude to the course, based upon their experience: 95% of our students would recommend the course to a friend.
- The following are testimonies provided by students who have completed the course:
  - o "The course has brought me new knowledge, and above all has helped me to a better understanding of many aspects of the Christian faith. A greater interest in the scriptures has also awakened in me. Now, when I read the Bible, there are often things that I understand better thanks to the topics we have covered. It has not only helped me to a better understanding of the dialogue between science & faith, but has brought me closer to God, and I have been able to understand some fundamental aspects of our faith for the first time, thanks to this course."

*Pedro, Colombia*



- o “Thanks, Bernard, for this sharing as brothers in faith in Christ the Lord. This course has been an experience like no other for me, even in this short period. I really am grateful to God, the Church, and to you who have made possible this experience of encounter, communion, friendship, and maturing in the faith. I hope that we will continue to share and be in contact. Hugs, blessings and wishing you a home full of grace this new Advent.”

*Baldo, Mexico*

- o “Personally, the course has helped me a lot to grow in faith, and to acquire a more adult and seated faith. Maybe because I’ve thought about matters that I had always “assumed” without ever having entered into deeply before.”

*Montse, Barcelona*