

Term Tenure and Promotion Prompts for Biological Sciences

Prompt 1:

According to the great geneticist Theodosius Dobzhansky, “Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution.” Yet, many American Christians reject evolution as unbiblical or even Satanic in origin. As a Christian biologist, explain how you respond to biblical and theological challenge(s) posed by evolution.

Prompt 2:

Biologists and other scientists aim to understand the world in terms of regularities and natural processes that can be observed and tested empirically. Providence, miracles, and other types of divine action do not fit neatly within that standard picture of science. As a Christian biologist, explain how you understand God’s ongoing relationship to the creation, including ourselves as part of the creation.

Because some of the readings address aspects of both prompts, a single set of readings is assigned.

Rau G. 2012. Mapping the Origins Debate: Six Models of the Beginning of Everything. InterVarsity Press, Westmont, chap 7 (“What We Can Learn From Each [Origins Model],” pp. 153-74.

Hyers C., “Dinosaur Religion: On Interpreting and Misinterpreting the Creation Texts,” *Journal of the American Scientific Affiliation* 36.3 (1984): 142-48.

Haarsma L., “Does Science Exclude God? Natural Law, Chance, Miracles, and Scientific Practice,” in Miller K. (Ed.) 2003, Perspectives on an Evolving Creation. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, Grand Rapids, pp. 72-94.

Russell RJ. “*Special Providence and Genetic Mutation: A New Defense of Theistic Evolution*,” in Miller K. (Ed.) 2003, Perspectives on an Evolving Creation. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, Grand Rapids, pp. 335-69.

Polkinghorne J. 1994. Quarks, Chaos, and Christianity. Crossroad, chap 5 (“Can a Scientist Pray?”) pp. 62-78.