

Philosophy 2330: Philosophy of Science
Fall 2018
Third short essay assignment

Please print your essay and bring it to class on Monday, October 8th. **ALSO** please make your essay anonymous by putting your R# at the top of the page and **NOT** your name.

You are to write roughly one page (500-800 words) answering the following questions.

In "When Faith and Reason Clash: Evolution and the Bible", Alvin Plantinga argues that evolutionary theory is not religiously neutral. What does he mean by this and why does he believe it? Do you think he is right?

Think about the essay "Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution" by Dobzhansky and the response by Steven Dille. After reflecting on these essays, do you think that your theological views should influence how you think about the scientific evidence for evolution? In describing his own view about the relationship between scientific and religious claims, Plantinga says, "So I can properly correct my view as to what reason teaches by appealing to my understanding of Scripture; and I can properly correct my understanding of Scripture by appealing to the teachings of reason"(122). How does this compare to the Doctrine of the Two Books discussed in Clark's book? How do you think that a Christian (or really, anyone at all) should think about scientific claims and the evidence we have for them? Is one of these views better than the other? Why? Feel free to describe some third view if you think it would be better.