

Philosophy 3330: Philosophy of Science
Spring 2016
Third short essay assignment

Please print your essay and bring it to class on Tuesday, March 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 (400-600 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?

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). Then near the end of his essay he suggests, “Finally, in all the areas of academic endeavor, we Christians must think about the matter at hand from a Christian perspective; we need Theistic Science. ... What we really need are answers to our questions from the perspective of *all* that we know—what we know about God, and what we know by faith, by way of revelation, as well as what we know in other ways” (141). Are these claims consistent? What is he suggesting about the relationship between scientific and religious claims? Do you think that this is how a Christian (or anyone at all) should think about scientific claims?