HTH694G Darwin and Divinity: The Ongoing Debate of Theology and Science in Culture and Religion

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Is faith in God, as active in creation, still possible after Darwin and evolutionary theory? Or, as some people ask, “Are Darwin and Eden compatible?” This course will explore religious and scientific views of the world and reality, as well as questions at the intersection of faith, science, and ethics in contemporary American society and beyond. (STM/DMin-level course).

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SCHEDULE: Tuesday, January 19—Friday, January 22
Monday: [Martin Luther King, Jr., Day; no class]
Tuesday: 8:30 am-12:00 noon; 1:00-5:30 pm
Wednesday: 8:30 am-12:00 noon; 1:00-5:30 pm; 7:00-10:00 pm
Thursday: 8:30 am-12:00 noon; 1:00-5:30 pm
Friday: 8:30 am-12:00 noon; 1:00-3:30 pm
In addition, 9 contact hours will be counted through Distance Education course requirements via the LTSP Moodle course website

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
By the end of the course, students will be able
1. To have gained or refreshed a basic understanding of the tenets of evolutionary theory
2. To be familiarized with some of the main contributors to the engagements between evolution and theology
3. To assess the impact of evolution on traditional teachings such as creation, theological anthropology, and eschatology
4. To start building their own theology of evolution

ADVANCE PREPARATION:
In advance of the first session of the class
1. Students are to have read
   b. Mary Kathleen Cunningham, ed., *God and Evolution: A Reader* (Routledge, 2007)
2. I would recommend reading a Darwin biography; my selection is David Quammen, *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin* (Norton, 2006)
3. If you need to get familiarized or do some refreshing on evolutionary biology, I would recommend either of the following:
4. Students are to have an idea on what chapters of the Routledge anthology focused in order to help lead class discussion

**REQUIREMENTS:**
1. Completion of all reading assignments
2. Attendance and active participation in all sessions of the course
3. Students will prepare questions about their assigned reading of choice in advance of class and thus help lead the in-class discussion on that topic
4. A final written paper of about 20 pages in length, double spaced, including notes and bibliography. This paper is due no later than six weeks after the end of the class, preferably by February 28