Date: May 13, 2014

Note: All seminars are two credits.

Summer 2014 – 1st Session

IDSC 480-01 (CRN 30443) – Evolution and Theology
Summer 2014 – MW 9:00-11:00 AM Location: MHC 211
1st Summer Session – 5/28/14-7/10/14
Faculty: Philip A. Rolnick (Theology) and Jayna Ditty (Biology)

This course will investigate evolution from both a biological and theological perspective. Since 1859, with the publication of Charles Darwin’s *Origin of Species*, biology has increasingly challenged some of the older, previously comfortable theological assumptions about God and human nature. We will use Richard Dawkins’ classic and controversial work, *The Selfish Gene*, to represent the most polemical wing of the biological position. We will use a recent work by the head of the Human Genome Project to present another side of the biological story, i.e., Francis Collins, *The Language of God*. We will also use the work of John Haught, who is a Georgetown theologian who has worked extensively in the interface of biology and theology, as well as parts of the revised manuscript currently being written on this topic by Philip Rolnick.

Science and theology can do more than merely conflict. While this course will examine some of the most important conflicts, it will also investigate ways in which biology and theology are independent, can be in dialogue, and can even be integrated. The course will be team taught by Prof. Jayna Ditty, who has received grants from the National Science Foundation for her work in bacterial genetics and Prof. Philip Rolnick, who has received grants from the John Templeton Foundation for his work in the interface of science and theology, and who is currently writing a book under contract to Baylor University Press on science and religion.