We invite you to this unique course and lecture series that will present the scientific story of the emergence and evolution of the universe, life, and humans; provide exegeses of the biblical story of creation; and offer theological reflections on the Epic of Creation.

Leading scientists will tell the scientific story of our origins as inferred from records in starlight, rocks, and fossils. Notable biblical scholars will present exegeses of the biblical story of the world’s beginnings and continuing creation as found in the Old and New Testaments and in the myths of other civilizations that shaped biblical concepts of creation. Distinguished theologians will reflect on issues and questions raised by the stories and their implications for Christian understandings of the world, humanity, and God. Throughout we will explore the meaning of the stories, asking what they tell us about the nature of our universe, about human nature, and about our origins and destinies.

Offered by the Zygon Center for Religion and Science (ZCRS), the Epic of Creation course is designed as a graduate-level seminary course and public lecture series. All lectures are free and open to the public. Course credit is available via registration through the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) or cross-registration through member schools of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS); the course number is LSTC T-456. For more information about ZCRS, please visit our website: www.zygoncenter.org; E-mail us: zcrs@lstc.edu; or call us: 773-256-0670.

Sept 14 (6:30 PM) The Ongoing Creation of Stars, Planets, and, Possibly, Life: Grace Wolf-Chase, astrophysics, Adler Planetarium/University of Chicago

Sept 14 (8:00 PM) The Origin of It All: Dan Hooper, astrophysics; Fermi Lab/University of Chicago

Sept 21 (6:30 PM) The Origin of Life: Tatjana Paunesku, molecular biology, Northwestern University

Sept 21 (8:00 PM) The Origin of Multicellular Life and Development of a Body Plan: Gayle Woloschak, molecular biology, Northwestern University/ZCRS


Sept 28 (8:00 PM) Brain Evolution: Philip Ulinski, neurobiology, University of Chicago (emeritus)


Oct 5 (8:00 PM) Social and Cultural Responses to Evolution: Barbara Straussberg, sociology, Aurora University


Oct 12 (8:00 PM) The Ancient Near Eastern Background for Hebrew Conceptions of Creation: Bernard Batto, religious studies, DePauw University (emeritus)

Oct 19 (6:30 PM) The Story of Creation from Hydrogen to the Earth: Donald York, astrophysics, University of Chicago

Oct 19 (8:00 PM) Universe Story/ies & Christian Theology: Some Hermeneutical Reflections: J. Matt Ashley, theology, University of Notre Dame


Nov 2 (6:30 PM) Creation and Wisdom (Proverbs and Psalms): Esther Menn, Old Testament, LSTC


Nov 9 (6:30 PM) Biological Evolution from the Cambrian Explosion to the Appearance of Higher Primates: James Hopson, biology, University of Chicago (emeritus)

Nov 9 (8:00 PM) Social Dimension of the Epic: Richard Baus, theology, ZCRS

Nov 16 (6:30 PM) Human Salvation in the Epic of Creation: Karl E. Peters, religion and philosophy, Rollins College (emeritus)/ZCRS

Nov 16 (8:00 PM) A Medieval Epic? Islamic-Jewish-Christian Connections to Creation and Science: Robert Cathey, theology, MTS

Nov 23 Thanksgiving Break

Nov 30 (6:30 PM) Reconstructing a Christian Theology of Nature: Anna Case-Winters, theology, MTS

Nov 30 (8:00 PM) The Epic of Creation and Interfaith Dialogue: James F. Moore, theology, Valparaiso University

Dec 7 (6:30 PM) The Epic of Creation—What Does It Mean?: Philip Hefner, theology, LSTC (emeritus)/ZCRS

Dec 7 (8:00 PM) Panel Discussion
About the Epic of Creation

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