

Beyond Two Books:
Metaphors For The Relationship
Between Science And Religion
In The 21st Century



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Outline

- Introduction
 - Context of course
 - Barbour's typology
 - History of Two Books metaphor
- The Metaphors:
 1. Space and Earth
 2. The Ladder
 3. Bipartisan Politics
 4. PC vs Mac
 5. Hardware-Software
- Conclusions
- Acknowledgements

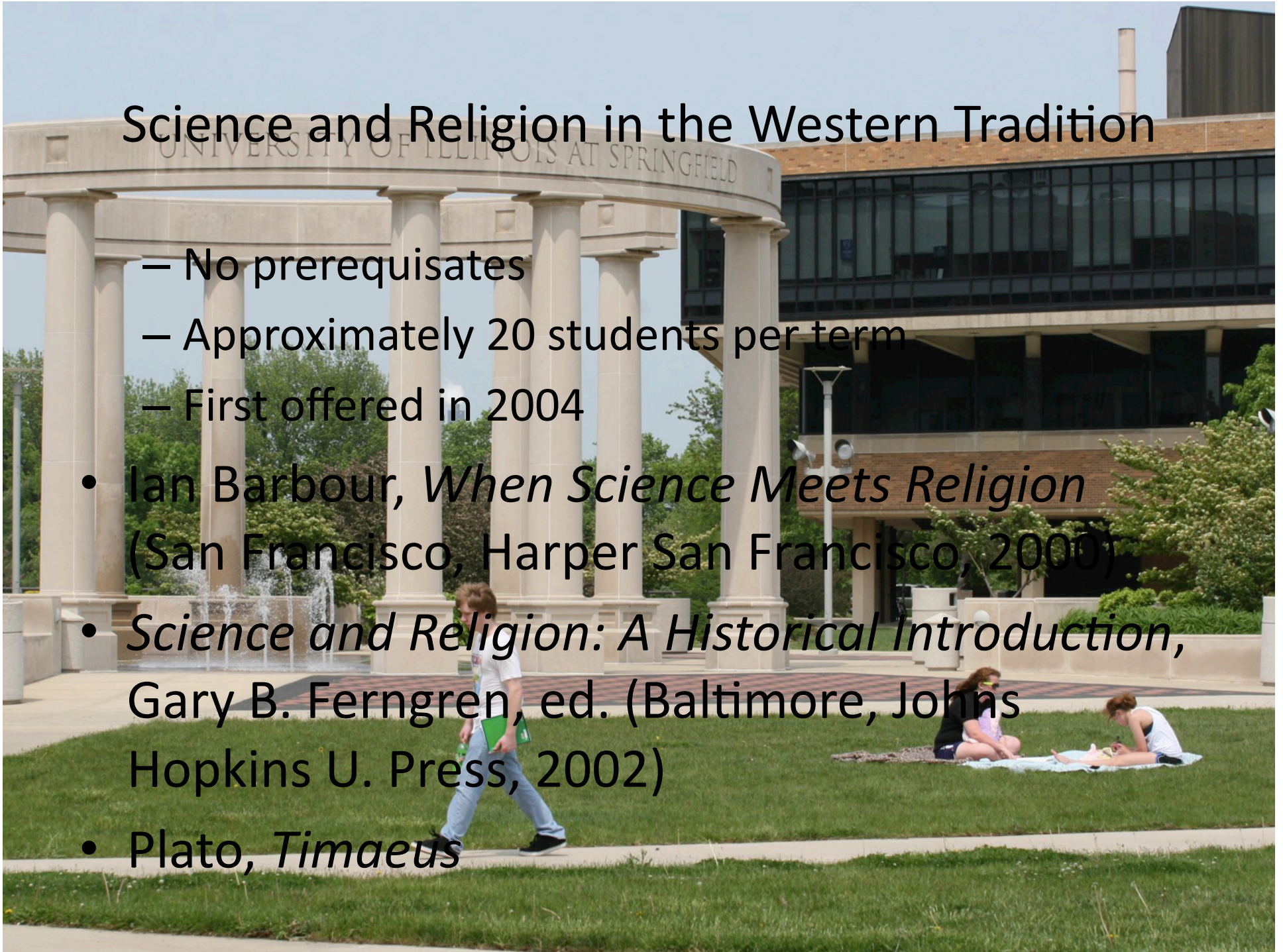
Introduction

- University of Illinois Springfield
 - Established 1969
 - Approximately 5,000 students
 - Public liberal arts college of Illinois
 - Tradition of upper-division geneds

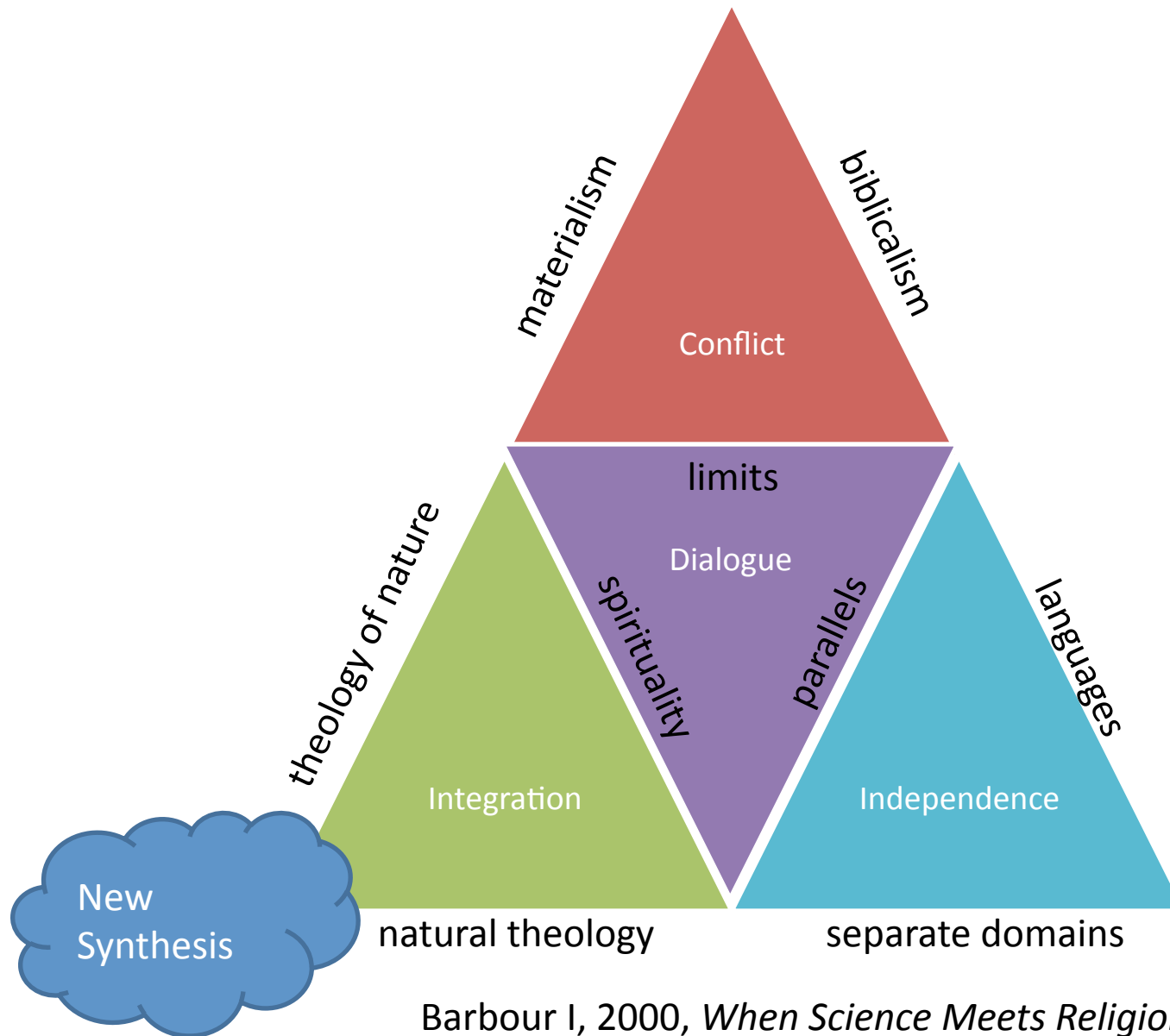


Science and Religion in the Western Tradition

- No prerequisites
- Approximately 20 students per term
- First offered in 2004
- Ian Barbour, *When Science Meets Religion* (San Francisco, Harper San Francisco, 2000)
- *Science and Religion: A Historical Introduction*, Gary B. Ferngren, ed. (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins U. Press, 2002)
- Plato, *Timaeus*



Barbour's Typology



Barbour I, 2000, *When Science Meets Religion*.

The Two Books Metaphor

- Book of God's Works: Nature
- Book of God's Words: Scripture
- God is the Author of Truth, so...
 - the Books cannot conflict
 - Science and religion work together

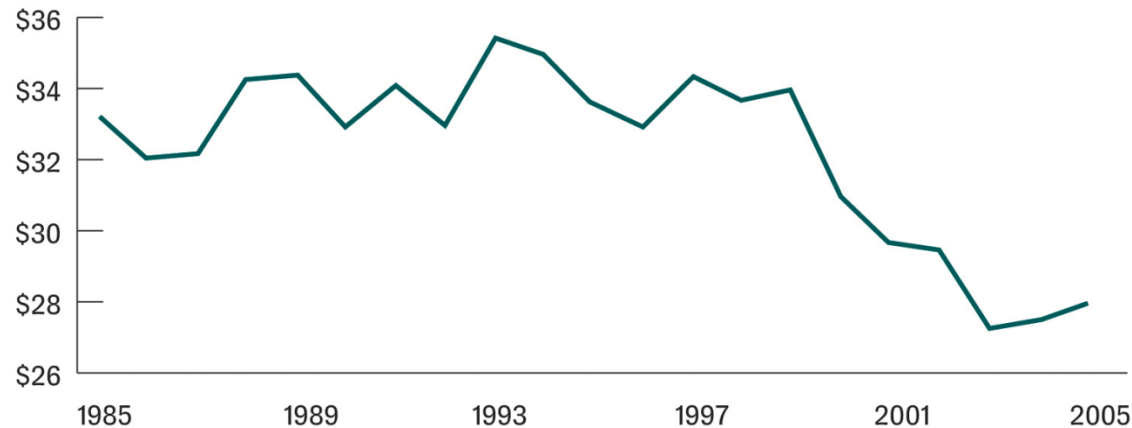
History of Two Books Metaphor

- Used by the Church Fathers and Early Scientists
 - Tanzella-Nitti G, 2005, *PSCF* 57(3): 235-248
- Used today in Christian philosophy and theology
 - Menuge AJL, 2003, *PSCF* 55(2): 88-98
 - Yong A, 2011, *PSCF* 63(1): 3-15
- Limitations
 - Murphy GL, 2006, *PSCF* 58(1): 64-67
- Deconstructionism
 - can we know the author's intent?

Digital Age: End of Books?

“On average, Americans ages 15 to 24 spend almost two hours a day watching TV, and only seven minutes of their daily leisure time on reading.”

Average Annual Spending on Books, by Consumer Unit
Adjusted for Inflation

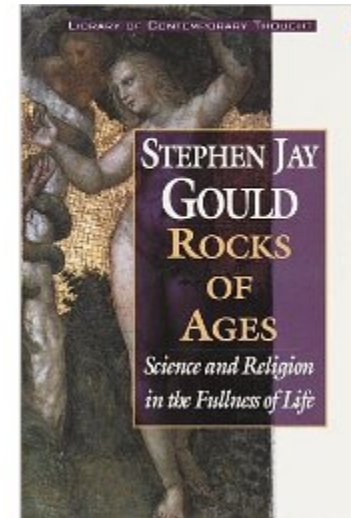


The Consumer Price Index, 1982–1984 (less food and energy), was used to adjust for inflation.
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

From *To Read or Not To Read* (Research Report #47), courtesy of the National Endowment for the Arts © 2007.

Other Popular Metaphors

- Warfare (Dawkins)
 - Conflict
- NOMA (Gould)
- Independent
- Bridge (CTNS)
 - Dialogue
- Spiral (Metanexus)
 - Integration

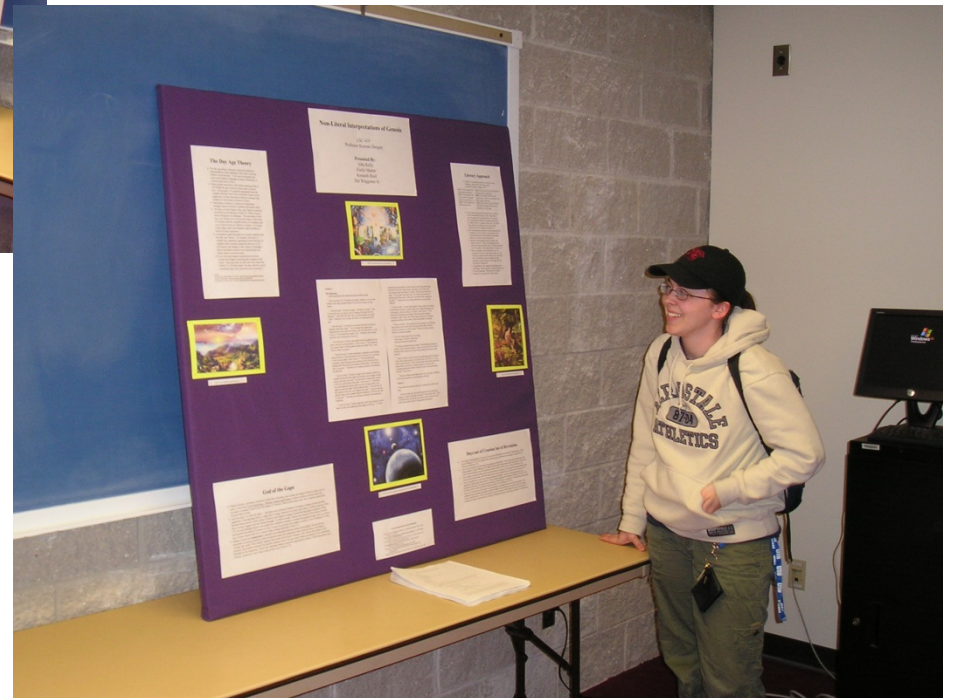
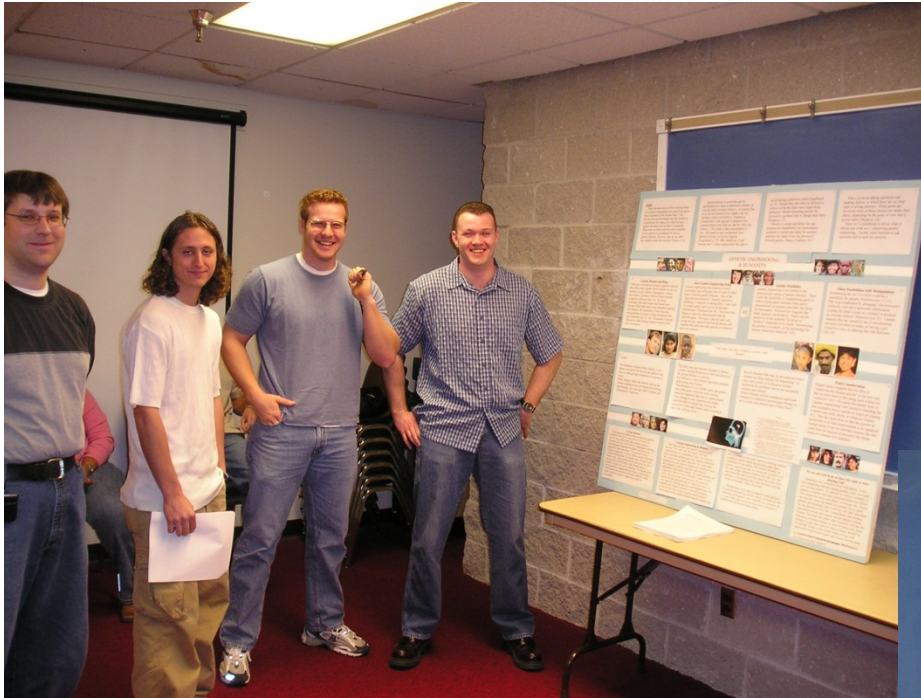


Metanexus
INSTITUTE

Class Assignment

- Reading: Hess PMJ 2002 “God’ s Two Books,”
In: *Bridging Science and Religion*, Peters T and
Bennett G, ed.s. Fortress Press: Minneapolis,
MN, 123-140.
- Class discussion of history and demise
- Students brainstorm possible new metaphors
- Group project: research one metaphor, write
term paper and present group poster

Group Poster Session



Students' Metaphors

Earth and Space (we are a part of nature, while religion is distant)

Net or Ladder (vertical and horizontal interconnected)

Bipartisan political system (similar goals, different methods)

PC vs. Mac (different operating systems, can network together)

Yin/Yang (constant flow, separate, equal)

Hardware and Software (observable nature, religion as a guide)

Celebrities and the Masses

Interconnected triangles in a circle of Truth

Modern Marriage (equal, united)

Apples and Oranges (different flavors, both fruit—make salad?)

Developmental Stages of Humans (grow beyond metaphors to holism)

Levees (science and religion fill in each other's gaps)

G.U.T. (grand unifying theory of physics—we'll eventually know all)

1. Space and Earth

- Earth is like science – direct interaction
 - “how” questions, quantifiable, technology
- Space is like religion – provides context
 - few experience first hand
 - “see” through the “telescope” of Scripture
 - “why” questions, mystery
- Dialogue and Integration



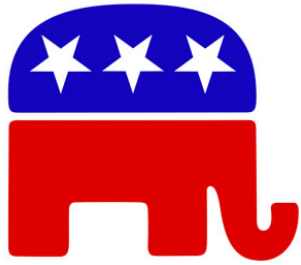
2. The Ladder

- Two parts of a ladder
 - Vertical supports-religion
 - Horizontal rungs-science
- Integrated whole helps humanity closer to God
- Example of quantum view of light

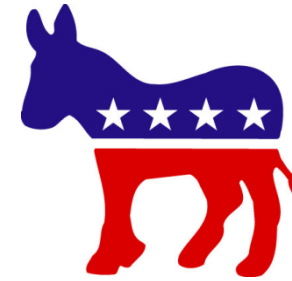
Patterson, Gordon N. Message from Infinity: A Space Age Correlation of Science and Religion. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984.



www.brillancemastery.com



3. Bipartisan Politics



- Two parties
 - Different methods
 - Same goals
- Republicans-conservative (religion?)
- Democrats-liberal (science?)
 - Religion often the most important factor in choosing a political party
- Complementary and Conflict

Witham, L. A. (2002). *Where Darwin Meets the Bible*. New York: Oxford University Press.

4. PC vs Mac

- Two types of computer systems competing in the global market (Conflict)
- Different operating systems and different functions (Independent)
- Both are computers, with similar software and uses (Dialogue)
- Superficial differences—can run both operating systems on one computer (Integration)



5. Hardware-Software



- Hardware: religion
- Software: science

Mahoney MS. "[Software as Science—Science as Software](#)." In: Hashagen U, Keil-Slawik R, Norberg A (eds.) *History of Computing: Software Issues*. Berlin: Springer Verlag, 2002.

- Different components analogous to different areas of science and religion
- Some form of Dialogue/Integration: separate but work together

Tinnirello PC. 1998 "Software Development: Science and Religion," *PC Week* 15(25): 88.

Evaluation

- Some metaphors more flexible than others
 - They can be used to illustrate many different interactions between science and religion (PC vs. Mac,)
- Some metaphors more explanatory
 - Hardware-software
- Some metaphors more biblical
 - Earth-Space (Ps 19)
 - Ladder (Gen 28)

Conclusions

- Five new metaphors to relate science and religion based upon modern culture
 - Emphasizes human effort rather than divine revelation
 - Tend toward cooperation between science and religion
- Can they last as long as the Two Books (>2,600 years)?

Acknowledgements

My students:

Jacob House, Ashley McGowan, Jeremy Studebaker,
Nathan Bennett, Stacey Jackson, Jake Walter, Jessica
Neighbors, P.J. Alphin, John Spencer,
Lauren Sanders, James Matthew, Emily Edmonds,
Meghan Hart, Megan Powers, Bridget Cartwright,
Morgan Carroll, Daniel Stites, Patrick Moore

My Wheaton faculty:

Mark Niemczyk, Larry Funck, Brian Miller