Origins: a dialogue between scientists and humanists

Lecture 1; April 1 2014
Origins

• Lectures:
  – TR 11-12:15 North Hall 1105

• Instructors and office hours:
  – Prof. Richard Hecht (Religious Studies);
    • T 1-3 or by appointment; HSSB 3076
  – Prof. Tommaso Treu (Physics);
    • TR 1:30-2:30; Broida 2015F
  – Prof. Stefania Tutino (Religious Studies/History);
    • TR 9-10; HSSB 3063
Origins

• Textbooks:
  – Steven Jay Gould: Rocks of Ages, Ballantine 1999

• All the other reading assignments have been collected into a course reader, available for purchase at the A.S. Publication Window, University Center.

• Website: www.physics.ucsb.edu/~tt/ORIGINS14

• Power point files and reading assignments can be found on the website
Origins

- **Grading:**
  - 15% Homework and discussion section participation
  - 30% Midterm Exam (May 13 2014)
  - 40% Paper 1,800 words (due June 5 2014)
  - 15% Final exam (June 11 2014, 12-3pm)

- **Homework:**
  - Students are asked to complete the weekly readings BEFORE lecture
  - Participation in the section is mandatory.
  - TAs will assign homework.
Origins

- Section participation is essential. Ask questions! There are no stupid questions!!!
- Grades as in Table. Absolute grades, no “curve”

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If you want to crash

• Your name should already be on the online wait lists (either the Physics or the Religious Studies department’s). It is now closed.
• You must go to section during this first week, and talk with your TA
• He will confirm that you are still interested, and then tell you your chances to receive an add code
• We will be giving add codes starting from the end of the second week of class, as spaces become available
Origins: the big question
Origins: structure of the course

- Two questions:
  - Is Earth a special or unique place?
  - How do we understand time, the concepts of beginning and end?
- Each question will be answered by the three instructors, according to the methodology of their own discipline
- After each question there will be a roundtable discussion to connect the different points of view
  - STUDENT INPUT IS WELCOME
Origins: Introduction - Hecht
Origins: Introduction - Cisneros
The End

See you on Thursday!