

# ANT 261: Science, Religion, and Society: Is the Truth Out There?

Spring Term, 2006: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:30 - 11:20 am, Chambers 1027

Instructor: Prof. Eriberto P. Lozada Jr.  
email: erlozada@davidson.edu

Office: Chambers B12  
tel. : 704-894-2035

web: <http://www.davidson.edu/personal/erlozada>

Office Hours: M, W, F 9:30-10:20 am; T, Th 10:00 -11:15 am or by appointment

## First Review Essay

The First Review essay should answer one of the following questions. This is a take-home review essay: you may use notes, books, or other supporting materials from the class in answering your essay. Your essay should be no more than five (5) pages double-spaced type, and should be turned in before class on **Monday, 6 February by email** as an attachment (or by using the digital dropbox on Blackboard).

**No outside research is required (or expected) for this review essay.** A good answer will be more argumentative and less descriptive. Make sure you have a clear line of argument, supported by specific evidence from the readings, films, and lectures. For textual citations, even though you are using class material, you should have a bibliography. Please use in-text citations as described in the “citing sources” handout. You are encouraged to use resources such as classmates or the Writing Center to help you clarify your argument, but all work in the end should be your own. For insight into how I evaluate essays, please see the “Teaching Philosophy” section of my website, especially the handout on making an argument.

**Note: Your arguments must be supported by evidence drawn from lectures, films and (especially) course readings. Be specific and cite authors when relevant.**

1. Using Barbour’s four field typology, which of the categories do you believe best describes Latour’s perspective on the relationship between science and religion? Why? What are the key issues in Latour that lead you to this conclusion?
2. Using one of the examples from the optional web resources (or another contemporary issue that you are familiar with), apply elements of either Latour’s or Tambiah’s perspectives on science, religion, and society. How does either model give you insight into your selected issue?
3. Compare Latour’s approach to science with that of Tambiah, contrasting specific assumptions and ideas that are central to their analyses. Which perspective do you find most convincing, and why? Make sure you cite and discuss specific concepts from Tambiah and Latour.
4. Make up your own specific question and answer it. (Begin your essay with your question).  
Note: if you make up your own question, it should pertain directly to the ideas that we have discussed in class and the materials that we have read.