

Philosophy of Nature

Fall 2018

PHIL 286-01

MWF 11:00-11:50

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WE HABITUALLY think of philosophy as among the humanities, while questions about the natural world fall within the domain of the sciences. Yet how can any lover of wisdom wonder about everything *except* the whole of nature? In this course, we will consider the mind's access to the natural world, the relation between philosophy and natural science, change and its causes, chance and the principle of simplicity, the relation of the artificial to the natural, and problems about motion, place, & time. Aristotle and the pre-Socratics will guide our investigations.

TEXTS

- ✓ Aristotle. *Physics, or Natural Hearing*. Translated by Glen Coughlin. South Bend, Ind.: St. Augustine's Press, 2005.
- ✓ Freeman, Kathleen. *Ancilla to the Pre-Socratic Philosophers*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1983.

REQUIREMENTS

Three essay exams and participation.