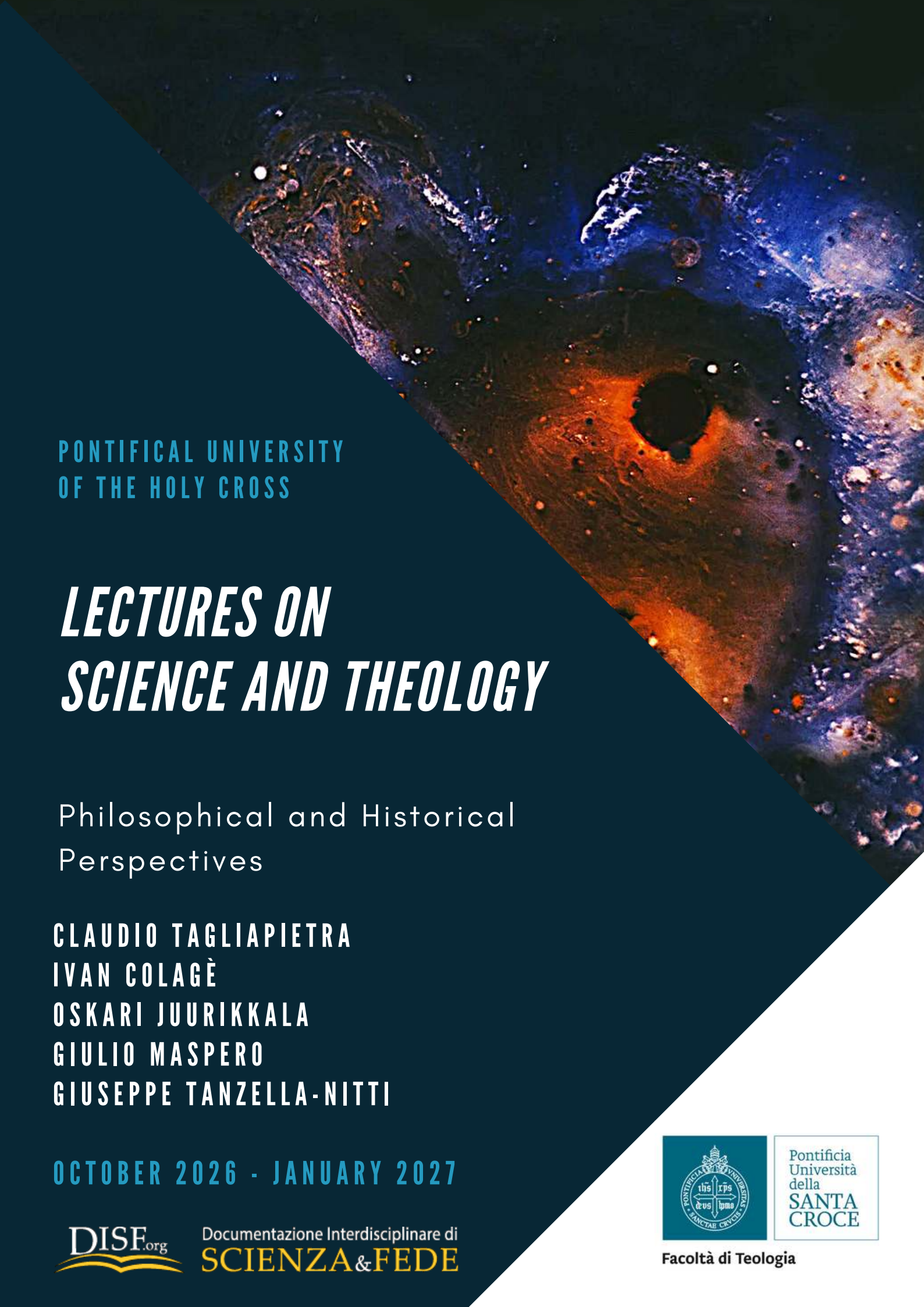




PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY
OF THE HOLY CROSS

LECTURES ON SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY

Philosophical and Historical
Perspectives

CLAUDIO TAGLIAPIETRA
IVAN COLAGÈ
OSKARI JUURIKALA
GIULIO MASPERO
GIUSEPPE TANZELLA-NITTI

OCTOBER 2026 - JANUARY 2027



Documentazione Interdisciplinare di
SCIENZA & FEDE



Pontificia
Università
della
**SANTA
CROCE**

Facoltà di Teologia

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces theology students to the main questions contemporary scientific knowledge raises for Christian theology, and to the significance and implications of theology for the scientific culture and the public sphere. The Christian confession of God as Creator and the proclamation of the Incarnation of the Word are examined against the background of (i) our best current knowledge of the physical cosmos and nature (ii) the evolutionary history of life and humankind, (iii) the theological foundations of human social life and of institutions. The course combines: an epistemological perspective (conditions and limits of dialogue among science, philosophy, and theology), and a historical perspective (key moments of reciprocal influence among these fields). Interdisciplinary issues will be addressed. The course will be articulated into 4 modules:

1. Theology and Cosmology
2. Theology and Nature
3. Theology, Anthropology and Life Sciences
4. Theology and Society

Learning outcomes (MA level)

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and evaluate major points of contact and tension between contemporary sciences and Christian doctrine (Creation, Anthropology, Christology).
2. Distinguish methodological levels (empirical science, philosophy of nature, metaphysics, theology) and avoid common category mistakes (e.g., scientism, "God of the gaps").
3. Interpret selected scientific themes (cosmology, evolution, neuroscience, social dynamics of science) within a coherent theological framework, in order to let scientific developments and theology interact constructively to understand natural/created reality.
4. Communicate—in academic and public settings—an intellectually serious account of the rationality of faith in a scientific culture.

LECTURERS

Claudio Tagliapietra

Associate Professor of Fundamental Theology at PUSC and Vice Director of the DISF Research Center. Chairman of the course.

Ivan Colagè

Associate Professor of Logic, Philosophy of Mind, and Philosophy of Science in the Faculty of Philosophy at the PUSC. Director of the DISF Research Center at the PUSC.

Oskari Juurikkala

Assistant professor at PUSC, Faculty of Theology.

Giulio Maspero

Full Professor of Dogmatic Theology, Board Member of the ROR Center at PUSC.

Giuseppe Tanzella-Nitti

Professor Emeritus of Fundamental Theology at PUSC.

Teaching format

- Lectures with guided discussion
- Short reading assignments for each class
- Brief class discussions among the participants

Assessment

- Brief essay (3 pages) on a selected course topic: 50%
- Oral exam (20 minutes) covering core themes and texts: 50%

Materials will be provided by each lecturer.

PROGRAMME 2026–2027

Module I — Theology and Cosmology - Tanzella-Nitti

7 October 2026 — Physical Cosmology and Christian Theology of Creation

14 October 2026 — The Christological Dimension of the Cosmos

21 October 2026 — The Debate on the Laws of Nature: Science, Philosophy and Theology

Module II — Theology and Nature - Juurikkala/Maspero

28 October 2026 — The Book of Nature I

4 November 2026 — The Book of Nature II

11 November 2026 — Nature and Quantum Relations

Module III — Theology, Anthropology and Life Sciences - Colagè

18 November 2026 — Becoming Humans: Human Evolution and Ecology in Interdisciplinary Perspective

25 November 2026 — Human Uniqueness: Wants vs. Needs

2 December 2026 — Creativity and the Imago Dei: Free Will and Language

Module IV — Theology and Society - Tagliapietra

9 December 2026 — Modern Society and the Rediscovery of the Sacred in the Era of AI (I)

16 December 2026 — Modern Society and the Rediscovery of the Sacred in the Era of AI (II)

13 January 2027 — Modern Society and the Rediscovery of the Sacred in the Era of AI (III)

20 January 2027 - **Final Conference** — Guest Speaker