

PRESS RELEASE

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Headline: Science & Religion: Complex Relationships

"Science and Religion in the Galileo Era" will be the topic of a presentation at the Humanist Society of New Mexico public meeting on Saturday, March 24th. UNM history professor Timothy Moy will present this intriguing and insightful subject at 10:00 AM in room 2406 of the UNM Law School, 1117 Stanford NE, in Albuquerque. The HSNM is a chapter of the American Humanist Association, which advocates for scientific skepticism, church/state separation, and a nurturing parent ethical model. The UNM Humanist Society, a campus student group, is also sponsoring this event.

Dr. Moy will examine the relationship between science and religion at the time of Galileo (1564-1642), which he says is quite surprising. "Ironically, one of the most famous interactions between the two - the Galileo trial - was also not typical for the period. The relationship was more complex and less confrontational than most people realize, but it was the beginning of revolutionary changes," he argues.

This event will kick off the new HSNM program of Humanism classes, which will begin with a course on the history of science and religion starting in May. That series will be taught by Jefferson Voorhees, a long-time student of history, anthropology, science, music, and comparative religion. Director of the classes, Ron Herman, says "These classes will provide the chance for those many, many people who doubt claims of the supernatural and the paranormal to better understand the origins of belief, the evolution of religions over the centuries, and the advantages of scientific skepticism for individual well-being and healthy communities around the world." Herman adds that "The histories of science and religion diverged during Galileo's lifetime, making Prof. Moy's topic especially pertinent. Scientific skepticism has always been at odds with tradition. Recently several daring writers have added fuel to the controversy with best sellers like *The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins and *The End of Faith* by Sam Harris, as well as *Freedom from God* by HSNM Vice-president Harry Willson."

For further information on the Moy event and related programs, contact Ron at 292-4375 or HumanistRWH@aol.com, or see the HSNM website at www.humanists.net/nm/.