

CLASSICAL WORLDVIEWS

Examples	What is Ultimate Reality?	Who is Humanity?	What is Humanity's Problem?	What is the Remedy?
Pantheism Wiccanism, New Age, Paganism	God and creation are the same; ultimate reality is God and God is in everything; God is not personal	Humanity is part of ultimate reality but is not differentiated from creation; has divine nature just as the rest of creation	Humanity does not recognize its true divine nature and does not live in harmony with the divinity around it	Overcome the material illusions of reality that divide humanity from the larger world and align self with larger spiritual reality; subsume self into larger divine global community
Dualism Manicheanism, Gnosticism, Buddhism, Process Theology	World consists of two eternal realities – one good, the other evil; these two realities will always exist and be in conflict; God is not personal	Humanity composed of these two eternal realities, spirit (good) and matter (evil)	Humanity is at war with itself since it is composed of these two opposing realities of spirit and matter	Asceticism – deny the body and material reality to rid self of evil
Naturalism Atheism, Materialism	Physical matter of universe is all that exists; no divine beings or spiritual existence beyond what we can touch	Humanity is a product of the system of nature (Evolution); not qualitatively different from rest of creation; no eternal soul	Humanity must survive; must control all impulses, instincts, ideas that counter that goal; societal values, morality, and social structures have not developed to support goal	Humanity must create values that support the enhancement and survival of life, allowing each person to develop to their full potential
Christian Theism Christianity, Judaism and Islam are also theistic religions	God is ultimate reality as a self-subsistent Person who created and continually sustains the universe at all times; God transcends the physical universe and is different from creation	Humanity created with a purpose and goal – to serve God the Creator; current life has eternal consequences; composed of body and soul/mind that will live on after death	Sin; humanity has rebelled against God and made itself the center of creation; this rebellion even extends to creation itself as both it and humanity are tainted by sin	Christ's salvific work provides a way to reclaim both humanity and creation for God's rule

VIEWS ON CREATION

	How Interpret Gen. 1-3?	How Does God Create?	Adam & Eve?	Origin of Death, Natural Evil?	Other Notes
Fiat Creationism	Literally as a scientific account; usually 6 literal 24-hour periods	Only uses supernatural processes in creation; classically, the idea that God created each species individually	Created in state of original righteousness; historical figures	Enter into the world only at Fall of humanity; no natural evil such as tornadoes, earthquakes, etc before	Early proponents of young earth theory fits here; historical progenitor of Creationism
Progressive Creationism	Not to be interpreted literally; not a scientific account	Uses both supernatural and natural processes in creation; God intervened at points in the process and oversees development; at least some form of micro-evolution, but divided as to macro-evolution	Created in state of original righteousness; historical figures	Death and natural evils always in the world, but do not affect humanity until the Fall	Closest to the view held by St. Augustine (God created the “seed”); some Creationists can fit in this category as well – Reasons to Believe
Theistic Evolution	Not to be interpreted literally; not a scientific account; only telling us God created, not how	Started in supernatural way, then let natural processes take their course; God immanent in process but not active; open to both micro- and macro-evolution	Created in primitive state; representative figures, not historical	Death and natural evils always in the world and have always affected humanity	Can also include here <i>deistic evolution</i> where God creates and then steps away from creation to let natural processes guide development
Creationism*	Literal, historical narrative; Bible is a “textbook on science”; 6 literal days	God creates ONLY by supernatural processes; militant rejection of evolution	Created in state of original righteousness; historical figures	Enter into the world only at Fall of humanity; no natural evil such as tornadoes, earthquakes, etc before	A social/political movement as well; usually see Noahic Flood as worldwide, rejection of uniform geology, advocating teaching “creation science” in schools rather than Evolution; Answers in Genesis, Inst. For Creation Research

I would categorize **Intelligent Design (ID) as a “kissing cousin” due to shared goals of discrediting Evolution as empirical science, focus on building “scientific” evidence for a creator, & desire to replace teaching of Evolution in public schools. ID began replacing Creationism in conservative circles back in the 1990’s as a response to the latter being declared as “religion not science” by the courts. ID separates itself by focusing only on arguing that complex structures in nature “infer” an intelligent designer.*