

Lawrence Krauss: Video and Discussion (15min video)

This is an extra credit assignment. It is not required.

In this short question and answer session, Professor Lawrence Krauss answers questions about the universe and our place in it. I want you to watch it because it basically ties together everything we have studied in this course.

<https://youtu.be/b0hx2J5ITel>

For this final discussion: Watch the whole video. Choose **two** of the questions listed below, one factual and one opinion, which Professor Krauss answers, that most inspire your interest. Each question is displayed in the video before Prof. Krauss gives his answer.

Part 1. Comment on two of the questions, one factual (questions 1 - 5) and one opinion (questions 6 - 17) that Prof. Krauss addresses. For each of your answers, please be sure to address the following:

- a) State the question, and why it strikes you as most interesting to you. Also state why you think this question is important to the progress of science.
- b) Summarize in one (or at most two) sentence(s) Professor Krauss' answer to this question.
- c) React to this question and answer. For one of the first five questions, which are basically factual, give your reaction based on what you have learned in this course, or another science course. However, for the question you chose from numbers 6 - 17, feel free to go to town with your personal opinion.

Part 2. Discussion with another student

Then, after you have written your answers, please read another student's responses and give them a comment. You can agree or disagree, but if you disagree be sure to be polite and positive! If you disagree, state your reasons based on what you have learned in this course, but always remember to be respectful of each other.

Here are the questions, each of which is presented before he answers it, and which are all listed under "More" on Youtube:

Choose one from the first 5 factual questions to discuss:

- 1) How did the universe begin?
- 2) How can a universe come from nothing? ([1:15](#))
- 3) Can we ever know how the universe began? ([2:02](#))
- 4) How can we explain that the universe appears fine-tuned for life? ([2:32](#))
- 5) If things had been slightly different at the beginning would life still have been possible? ([3:47](#))

Choose one from the second set of opinion questions to discuss:

- 6) How do you decide what to believe? ([5:37](#))
- 7) Can science explain everything? ([6:27](#))
- 8) Does science give us certainty? ([7:01](#))
- 9) Does it matter that science sometimes gets things wrong? ([7:49](#))
- 10) Do people have 'faith' in science? ([8:27](#))
- 11) What does it mean to live without certainty? ([9:04](#))
- 12) Are science and religion compatible? Has science removed the need for religion? ([9:22](#))
- 13) Why is science important? ([10:05](#))
- 14) What are joys to be found in science? ([10:49](#))
- 15) What good can science do? ([11:33](#))
- 16) Is 'militant atheism' or dialogue the best approach? ([12:16](#))
- 17) Would you describe yourself as a humanist and what does that mean to you? ([14:00](#))

Credit: Activity written by Jatila Van der Veen.