

More correct to say "Natural Science" rather than "Physics"?

Post by "Eikadistes" of July 13, 2023 at 1:18 PM

Technically, we as Epicureans might use "**Physiology**" as the jargon to refer to "*the study of the regular generative and destructive activities of particles throughout the void*" (as opposed to the academic definition of "*Physiology*" as "*anatomy*"). Epicurus' notion of *physiologias*, the "study of nature" seems to connote something closer to "*Biology*" and "*Chemistry*" than to "*Particle Physics*", which I think they saw as an expression of *Canonics* or *Ontology*.

As White translates in Book X of *The Lives of Eminent Philosophers*: "It is their [Epicurean] custom, however, to rank *canonic[s]* [κανονικὸν] along with *physics* [φυσικῶ]; they call it 'on standards and principles' and 'fundamentals' [στοιχειωτικόν]. *Physics* [φυσικὸν] they call 'on generation and perishing' and 'on nature'; and *ethics* [ἠθικὸν] they call 'on what to choose or avoid' and 'on ways of life and the end [τέλους].' *Dialectic* [logic] they reject as a distaction, since they think it sufficient for those studying physics to proceed according to the expressions for things" (30).