



SOUTHERN
EVANGELICAL
SEMINARY

COURSE SYLLABUS

Department: Apologetics/Science
Campus: On Campus
Course Title: Evolutionary Biology & Intelligent Design
Course Number: SC501
Credit Hours: 3
Semester/Year: Winter / 2013

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I. DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

“A study of neo-Darwinian principles for evolutionary biology; including aspects of natural history (macro-evolution) and population changes (micro-evolution) including problems in the neo-Darwinian paradigm and present various aspects of an Intelligent Design alternative.” (SES Catalog).

This course provides an overview of the broad cultural, intellectual, and scientific movement known as intelligent design (ID). It also critiques ID’s chief antagonist, the view that cosmological and biological origins are best explained as the result of an accidental evolutionary process.

II. ROLE OF THE CLASS IN PROGRAM OF STUDY

This class is an Apologetic or any area elective for all graduate degree students and is required for the graduate certificate in Scientific Apologetics.

III. OBJECTIVES: After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- 1. Defend Intelligent Design against evolutionary criticism.**
- 2. Explain how Intelligent Design fits into a Christian worldview.**

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES FOR THE COURSE

Collins, Francis S. *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*. New York: Free Press, 2006. [**LangGod**]

Dembski, William A. *The Design Revolution: Answering the Toughest Questions about Intelligent Design*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2004. [**TDR**]

———. *The End of Christianity: Finding a Good God in an Evil World*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2009, in press. [**EndXty**]

Dembski, William A. and Jonathan Wells, *The Design of Life: Discovering Signs of Intelligence in Biological Systems*. Dallas: Foundation for Thought and Ethics, 2008. [**DesLif**]

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Thomas Nagel, *Mind & Cosmos: Why the Materialist Neo-Darwinian Conception of Nature Is Almost Certainly False* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012). [**MindCosmos**]

Jonathan Wells, *The Myth of Junk DNA* (Seattle: Discovery Institute Press, 2011). [**MythJunk**]

John G. West, *Darwin Day in America: How Our Politics and Culture Have Been Dehumanized in the Name of Science*. Wilmington: ISI Books, 2007. [**DarwDay**]

V. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE

All work must be typed or done a PC. Further, all papers must use Turabian, 7th ed., when appropriate documentation is required.

1. Before classes begin, read **DarwDay** and **LangGod** and watch two videos: *Inherit the Wind* (1960 version with Spencer Tracy) as well as Ben Stein's *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed* (2008).
2. Also, before classes begin, try to get through as much of **DesLif** as you can.
3. The first third of classes will focus on **DesLif+MythJunk**, next third on **TDR**, and final third on **EndXty** (roughly).
4. Read **MindCosmos** to do critical review

VI. GRADING

1. Final exam in Moodle — 30 percent.
2. 1,500- to 2,000-word critical review of **MindCosmos** — 20 percent.
3. 3,000-word essay on the theological significance of intelligent design — 30 percent.
4. At least 10 posts defending ID totaling at least 3,000 words on “hostile” websites — 20 percent.
5. Regular class attendance and active class participation.
6. Single-page executive summary of YOU (with clearly recognizable picture of yourself).
7. All assignments and work must be uploaded in Moodle by the end date for the course: April 20, 2013.

VII. SCHOOL POLICIES: ATTENDANCE AND PLAGIARISM

The school attendance and plagiarism polices as stated in the most recent edition of the Southern Evangelical Seminary Student Handbook will be enforced.

VIII. OTHER SUGGESTED READINGS OR BIBLIOGRAPHY

See Bibliographies at the end of required textbooks.