

## **Final Exam**

### **28677 A Primer on Intelligent Design Dr. William Dembski, Spring 2006**

This is a take-home final. It is open book. You may not consult with anyone while taking it. You have exactly two hours (120 minutes) to take it. There are four questions and no answer is to exceed 500 words (this limit is strict). The exam must be taken in one sitting (if this proves impossible, resume the exam as quickly as possible and attach an explanation as to why you were interrupted and for how long). The exam is due by midnight Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday, May 10, 2006 as an email attachment sent to my Garrett Fellow, Keith Goad: [kgoad687@sbsstudents.net](mailto:kgoad687@sbsstudents.net) (or else arrange with Keith directly to deliver hardcopy to him by that date and time).

Do not scroll to or view next page unless ready to take exam.

2 hour absolute limit.

# **STOP**

(unless ready to take exam)

*Answer the following four questions. Each question carries equal weight. The word-limit per question is 500 (this limit is absolute).*

1. You are a panelist at the premier showing of Richard Dawkins's BBC production debunking religion titled "The Root of All Evil?" Richard Dawkins is there on the podium with you. After the showing of this program, you are asked to present a brief response. Throughout the program, Dawkins emphasizes that evolutionary theory is confirmed by overwhelming evidence whereas religious belief is as a matter of blind, unthinking faith. Challenge him in your response on both points: spend half of your response showing that evolution is not nearly as overwhelmingly confirmed as Dawkins makes out; also, indicate how, at least when it comes to the Christian faith, religious belief can be well-supported evidentially (e.g., indicate lines of evidence supporting the resurrection and the reliability of the Scriptures).
2. You are an expert witness in the Dover case. You've been asked to summarize why you think intelligent design is a fully scientific theory. Do so here. Sketch out ID's method of design detection and then show how it applies (or could apply) to biological systems. Further, indicate how ID is testable: what evidence would confirm ID and what evidence would disconfirm ID?
3. Barbara Forrest and Paul Gross have characterized intelligent design as part of a vast right-wing conspiracy to undermine our democratic institutions by substituting religious dogma for scientific theory. Accordingly, they see intelligent design as part of a "Wedge Strategy." Briefly recount the history of the "Wedge" and indicate why Forrest and Gross may be wrong to paint it in conspiratorial terms. Is the "Wedge" a legitimate cultural movement? Explain.
4. You've been assigned to teach six Sunday school lessons on intelligent design over six consecutive Sundays. Each lesson is an hour and fifteen minutes. Outline how you would conduct these lessons. What would you have people read? In what order? What would you present? What would you want participants to take away at the end of the six weeks?