

**PHREL 7534 Christian Faith, Knowledge, and Science**

**William A. Dembski**

[updated 8.21.06]

*I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord ... that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings. Philippians 3*

**Seminar Description:**

This seminar attempts to make sense of the scientific enterprise in light of the Christian Faith. Of special interest here is the use to which science has been put in undermining the Christian faith by furthering a materialistic worldview.

**Seminar Objective:**

The goal of this seminar is to help students think, speak, and write effectively and professionally within a Christian worldview on the role of science in contemporary culture.

**Reading List:**

- [PRW] Pamela R. Winnick, *A Jealous God: Science's Crusade Against Religion* (Nashville: Nelson Current, 2005).
- [TSK] Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 3rd ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).
- [SMB] Stephen M. Barr, *Modern Physics and Ancient Faith* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2003).
- [D&R] William A. Dembski and Michael Ruse, *Debating Design: From Darwin to DNA* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004).
- [HCvB] Hans Christian von Baeyer, *Information: The New Language of Science* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003)
- [S&B] Jeffrey M. Schwartz and Sharon Begley, *The Mind and the Brain: Neuroplasticity and the Power of Mental Force* (New York: HarperCollins, 2002).

**Semester Grade:**

- (1) Active participation in class discussions — 20 percent.
- (2) Presentation of 1,500- to 2,000-word critical review along with leading a class discussion (based on critical review) — 30 percent.
- (3) 6,000- to 8,000-word research paper — 50 percent. The paper can be on a topic of your choice, but it must be relevant to this course and argue a thesis. The word count excludes notes and bibliography. The paper needs to follow a consistent style and provide full references. Due last day of class.
- (4) Single-page executive summary of YOU (with embedded picture) — minus 5 percent if not handed in. Due second week of class.

## Readings:

- (1) PRW, entire book.

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**NOTE: (1) needs to be read before the first class meeting.**

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- (2) TSK, chs. 1-8.
- (3) TSK, chs. 9-13 plus postscript.
- (4) D&R, pp. 3-51, SMB, pts 1 & 2.
- (5) SMB, pts. 3 & 4.
- (6) SMB, pt. 5 & appendices
- (7) D&R, pt. I.
- (8) D&R, pt. III.
- (9) D&R, pt. IV.
- (10) HCvB, chs. 1-15.
- (11) HCvB, chs. 16-25.
- (12) S&B, chs. 1-3.
- (13) S&B, chs. 4-7.
- (14) S&B, chs. 8-10 plus epilogue.

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Course: PHREL 7534

Term: Fall 2006

Time: R 2:00-4:00 pm

Place: Fleming 22

Online: <http://www.designinference.com/teaching/teaching.htm>