Southern Evangelical Seminary

AP 410 Intelligent Design
William A. Dembski
[college course; 11-16 May 2009]

What you believe to be true will control you, whether it's true or not.
–Jeremy LaBorde

Course Description:
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.

Course Objective:
The goal of this course is to help students understand how evolutionary theory and intelligent design fit within a Christian worldview.

Required Readings:
[**DesOrCh**]   Denyse O'Leary, *By Design or by Chance? The Growing Controversy on the Origins of Life in the Universe* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2004).
[**DarwDay**]   John G. West, *Darwin Day in America: How Our Politics and Culture Have Been Dehumanized in the Name of Science* (Wilmington, Del.: ISI Books, 2007).
[**DesLif**]   William A. Dembski and Jonathan Wells, *The Design of Life: Discovering Signs of Intelligence in Biological Systems* (Dallas: Foundation for Thought and Ethics, 2008).
[**TDR**]   William A. Dembski, *The Design Revolution: Answering the Toughest Questions about Intelligent Design* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2004).
[**EndXty**]   William A. Dembski, *The End of Christianity: Finding a Good God in an Evil World* (Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2009, in press).

Semester Grade:
(1)   Final exam given by proctor — 40 percent.
(2)   3,000-word essay on the theological significance of intelligent design — 40 percent.
(3)   At least 10 posts defending ID totalling at least 2,000 words on "hostile" websites — 20 percent.
(4)   Regular class attendance and active class participation.
(5)   Single-page executive summary of YOU (with clearly recognizable picture of yourself).

Schedule and Assignments:
(1)   Before classes begin, read **DesOrCh** and **DarwDay** 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**, next third on **TDR**, and final third on **EndXty**.
(4)   During class week begin posting on ID on "hostile" websites.

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