PHILO 7544 The Coherence of Intelligent Design

William A. Dembski

[doctoral seminar; spring 2008]

What you believe to be true will control you whether it’s true or not.

–Jeremy LaBorde

Seminar Description:
This seminar attempts to make sense of intelligent design in light of the Christian Faith. Of special interest here are attempts to undermine the philosophical and scientific validity of intelligent design, especially as it challenges materialistic conceptions of evolution.

Seminar Objective:
The goal of this seminar is to help students to see how intelligent design coheres as an intellectual project.

Reading List:


Semester Grade:
(1) Active participation in class discussions — 20 percent.
(2) Presentation of 1,500- to 2,000-word critical review of assigned reading along with leading a class discussion based on the 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 class meeting.
(4) Single-page executive summary of YOU (with clearly recognizable picture of yourself) — minus 10 percent if not handed in. Due second class meeting.
Readings:

(1) WmAD2, entire book.

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

(2) NAM, intro, pt. 1
(3) NAM, pts. 2, 3
(4) NAM, pt. 4
(5) WmAD1, chs. 1, 2
(6) WmAD1, chs. 3, 4
(7) WmAD1, chs. 5, 6
(8) Y&E, intro, chs. 1-7
(9) Y&E, chs. 8-13, appendix
(10) DR, pts. 1, 2
(11) DR, pts 3, 4
(12) AM, chs. 1-4
(13) AM, chs. 5-8
(14) open

Instructor: William A. Dembski
Email (primary): wdembski AT designinference.com
Email (secondary): wdembski AT swbts.edu
Office: Scarborough 206A
Phone: 817.923.1921 x4435
Office Hours: TBA

Course: PHILO 7544
Term: Spring 2008
Time: 2:00 – 3:50 pm, W
Place: TBA
Online: http://www.designinference.com/teaching/teaching.htm