

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:

- [WmAD1] William A. Dembski, *No Free Lunch: Why Specified Complexity Cannot Be Purchased without Intelligence* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield, 2002).
- [WmAD2] William A. Dembski, ed., *Uncommon Dissent: Intellectuals Who Find Darwinism Unconvincing* (Wilmington, Delaware: ISI Books, 2004).
- [NAM] Neil A. Manson, ed., *God and Design: The Teleological Argument and Modern Science* (London: Routledge, 2003).
- [AM] Angus Menuge, *Agents Under Fire: Materialism and the Rationality of Science* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield, 2004).
- [DR] Del Ratzsch, *Nature, Design, and Science: The Status of Design in Natural Science* (Albany, N.Y.: SUNY Press, 2001).
- [Y&E] Matt Young and Taner Edis, eds., *Why Intelligent Design Fails: A Scientific Critique of the New Creationism* (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 2004)

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

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