

28960 Christian Doctrine and the Natural Sciences
Dr. William Dembski, Fall 2005

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

Course Description:

This course examines some of the key questions in the dialogue between science and theology. Of special interest here are the various strategies used to approach this dialogue and how these strategies alternately help or hinder a Christian understanding of science.

Course Objective:

The goal of this course is to help students think, speak, and write effectively within a Christian worldview on the relation between science and theology.

Reading List:

- [RFC] Richard F. Carlson, ed., *Science & Christianity: Four Views* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2000).
- [SJG] Stephen Jay Gould, *Rocks of Ages: Science and Religion in the Fullness of Life* (New York: Ballantine, 1999).
- [PEJ] Phillip E. Johnson, *Reason in the Balance: The Case Against Naturalism in Science, Law, and Education* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1995).
- [HFS] Henry F. Schaefer III, *Science and Christianity: Conflict or Coherence?* (Watkinsville, Georgia: Apollos Trust, 2003).
- [BW] Benjamin Wiker, *Moral Darwinism: How We Became Hedonists* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2002).

Semester Grade:

- (1) Mid-term exam — 20 percent positive.
- (2) Comprehensive final exam — 30 percent positive.
- (3) 5,000- to 6,000-word research paper — 50 percent positive. 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.
- (4) Punctual class attendance — up to 10 percent negative.
- (5) Full class participation — up to 10 percent negative.
- (6) Pop quizzes — up to 20 percent negative.

Readings:

- (1) PEJ, pp. 7-70. HFS, pp. 1-36.
- (2) PEJ, pp. 71-153. HFS, pp. 77-106.

NOTE: (1) and (2) need to be read before the first class meeting.

- (3) PEJ, pp. 155-218. HFS, pp. 37-76.
- (4) BW, pp. 7-74.
- (5) BW, pp. 75-142.
- (6) BW, pp. 143-214.
- (7) BW, pp. 215-288.
- (8) BW, pp. 289-322. HFS, pp. 107-180.
- (9) SJG, ch. 1.
- (10) SJG, ch. 2.
- (11) SJG, ch. 3.
- (12) SJG, ch. 4.
- (13) RFC, ch. 3.
- (14) RFC, ch. 4.