

## 85320 Scientific Approach: The World and Christian Faith 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*

### **Seminar Description:**

This seminar attempts to make sense of the scientific enterprise in light of the Christian Faith. Of especial 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 within a Christian worldview on the role of science in contemporary culture.

### **Reading List:**

- [D&R] William A. Dembski and Michael Ruse, *Debating Design: From Darwin to DNA* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004).
- [G&R] Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay W. Richards, *The Privileged Planet: How Our Place in the Cosmos Is Designed for Discovery* (Washington, DC: Regnery, 2004).
- [TSK] Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 3rd ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).
- [S&B] Jeffrey M. Schwartz and Sharon Begley, *The Mind and the Brain: Neuroplasticity and the Power of Mental Force* (New York: HarperCollins, 2002).
- [ANW] A. N. Wilson, *God's Funeral: A Biography of Faith and Doubt in Western Civilization* (New York: Ballantine, 1999).

### **Semester Grade:**

- (1) Active participation in class discussions — 20 percent.
- (2) Presentation and rebuttal — 30 percent.
- (3) 7,000- 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.

**Readings:**

- (1) ANW, chs. 1-8.
- (2) ANW, chs. 9-15.

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

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- (3) TSK, chs. 1-8.
- (4) TSK, chs. 9-13 plus postscript. D&R, pp. 3-51.
- (5) D&R, pt. I.
- (6) D&R, pt. II.
- (7) D&R, pt. III.
- (8) D&R, pt. IV.
- (9) G&R, sec. 1.
- (10) G&R, sec. 2.
- (11) G&R, sec. 3 plus conclusion.
- (12) S&B, chs. 1-3.
- (13) S&B, chs. 4-7.
- (14) S&B, chs. 8-10 plus epilogue.