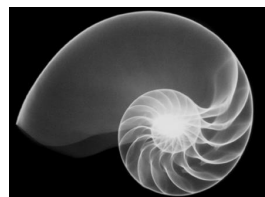




ZYGON CENTER FOR RELIGION AND SCIENCE



ADVANCED SEMINAR IN RELIGION AND SCIENCE - FALL 2015

PURPOSE AND PROCESS IN SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY: THE HISTORY, SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY OF THE DESIGN ARGUMENT(S) AND THE IDEA OF “TELEOLOGY” IN CREATION

Chaired by Rev. Dr. Linda Eastwood

Monday Evenings 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM, September 14, 2015 through December 7, 2015

Room 201, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 1100 East 55th Street, Chicago, IL 60615

The “design argument” – the idea that God designed the world – has a long history. It was taken for granted for centuries as part of natural theology. Currently, it is undergoing revived interest because of new ideas in cosmology: “cosmic fine tuning” and “the anthropic principle.” However, some forms of the design argument were (and remain) challenged by Darwinian evolution. “New atheists” (firmly aligned with materialism and scientism) assert that Darwinian evolution means that ideas of design and purpose are dead. “Intelligent design” advocates, fighting for the traditional idea of creation according to a specific plan, claim scientific arguments for “irreducible complexity” in biology. This suggests an irreconcilable conflict between theology and science, and yet theology, to be relevant in today’s world, needs to engage constructively the natural sciences. The concept of a more open teleology, guiding to a future not fully determined, has been developed in “open” and “process” theologies, has found allies in scientific ideas of “emergence” and “self-organization,” and may give new life to the religious sense of divine design in the created order. In this seminar, we will:

- Explore historical and current expressions of the design argument.
- Examine the responses of “new atheism” and “intelligent design.”
- Explore the science, the often unstated metaphysical assumptions, and the theological implications (especially for theodicy and for human freedom) of the various positions on “design.”
- Analyze and critique a variety of theological approaches to the design argument, and their implications for human behavior.

Offered by the Zygon Center for Religion and Science, the Advanced Seminar in Religion and Science is designed as a research seminar for faculty and graduate students. Course credit is available via registration through the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) or cross-registration through member schools of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS); the course number is LSTC CC/RHTH601. Students of McCormick Theological Seminary may register using McCormick course number T523. For more information, please visit www.zygoncenter.org.

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- 9/14 **Purpose and Process in Science and Theology: Historical and Contemporary Contexts**, Rev. Dr. Linda Eastwood, *religion and science, McCormick Theological Seminary*
- 9/21 **God, Fine-tuning, and the Multiverse: A Short Philosophical Introduction**, Dr. Neil Manson, *philosophy, University of Mississippi*
- 9/28 **Man, the Goal of the Evolutionary Process in Darwin’s Origin of Species**, Dr. Robert J. Richards, *history and philosophy of science, University of Chicago*
- 10/5 **Creation: Evolution, Contingency, and Intentionality**, Dr. Gayle Woloschak, *molecular biology, Northwestern University & Zygon Center*
- 10/12 **An Open and Relational Account of Providence, Love, and Design**, Dr. Thomas Oord, *theology, Northern Nazarene University*
- 10/19 **Divine Design: Some Theological Considerations**, Rev. Dr. Anna Case-Winters, *theology, McCormick Theological Seminary*
- 10/26 **Is Teleology a Four-Letter Word?**, Dr. Cynthia Crysdale, *theology and ethics, University of the South*
- 11/2 **Cosmic Direction and the Spirit: On Teleology and Eschatology**, Dr. Amos Yong, *theology, Fuller Theological Seminary*
- 11/9 **God in Process, World in Process: Constructive Theology and the new Engagement with the Sciences**, Dr. Philip Clayton, *theology, Claremont School of Theology*
- 11/16 **Student Book Presentation & Group Discussion**, Rev. Dr. Linda Eastwood, *religion and science, McCormick Theological Seminary*
- 11/23 **No Lectures** (Thanksgiving Recess at LSTC)
- 11/30 **Design Passes Through the Human Mind**, Dr. Philip Hefner, *theology, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and Zygon Center*
- 12/7 **Student Project Presentations and Panel Discussion**, Rev. Dr. Linda Eastwood, *religion and science, McCormick Theological Seminary*

About the Advanced Seminar

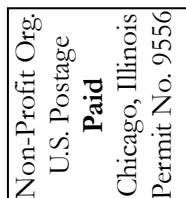
Since 1965, an advanced seminar on religion in the context of the sciences has been offered for faculty, students, and professionals in the Chicago area. The seminar was founded by Ralph Wendell Burhoe under the auspices of Meadville/Lombard Theological School and the Center for Advanced Study in Religion and Science. CASIRAS traces its origins to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, of which Burhoe was Executive Officer. In 1970, CASIRAS affiliated with the Association of Chicago Theological Schools. In the 1970s, Philip Hefner, Professor of Systematic Theology at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC), joined Burhoe in directing the seminar. In 1988, the Zygon Center for Religion and Science (ZCRS) was founded by LSTC and CASIRAS and began sponsoring the Advanced Seminar. From this tradition, the Advanced Seminar takes its shape as a multidisciplinary network of persons seeking to understand how the sciences and the religions engage each other and to interpret the fundamental issues that are posed in this engagement. The goal is to gain insight into the import of the sciences for the critical function of religion in its role as a cultural vehicle of ultimate values and concerns.

Course Credit and Registration

The Advanced Seminar is designed as a research seminar for faculty and graduate students. Course credit is available via registration through the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago or cross-registration through member schools of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools; the course number is LSTC CC/RHTH 601 (McCormick students course number is T523). For more information, please visit www.zygoncenter.org.

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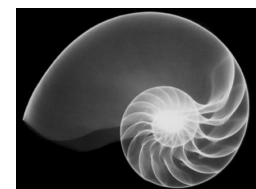
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