

INCO 796

Spring 2015 Seminar Plan

#	Topic	Reading	Lead	Date	Reporters
1	Introduction: How do we do science? Is there anything beyond science?		T. Davis, W. deVries, E. Möbius	1/20	
2	Snow Day			1/27	
3	Overview on Physical Cosmology – Sense of Place & Paradigm Shifts	<i>Cosmic Heritage Ch. 1-3, partly 7.</i> <i>Davies, The Goldilocks Enigma Ch 1, 2;</i> <i>Ferris, The Whole Shebang; Ch. 1,2,4,6;</i> "Curtains of the Universe", Astronomy, March 95	Eberhard Möbius	2/3	
4	Discussion of Discussion Lead Topics, selection of choices; Mind and its Place in Nature	Alter & Howell: "A Dialogue on Consciousness" , Chapter 1. "Strange Behavior"	Willem deVries	2/10	
5	Assignments of Topics; Life as we know it and its evolution	R. Dawkins "The selfish Gene", Ch. 2; E. Mayr "One long Argument", Ch. 4, 5; Stannard, God for the 21 st Century, Part 2; Foreword of "Origins of Life";	Thomas Davis	2/17	
6	What is Science? A philosophical overview	Philosophy and Science for Everyone, Ch. 1 (add to reading; bring in each time!)	Lorraine Wilson Michael Dillman	2/24	John O'Brien
7	Origin of the universe(s) – Laws, testability, and observability	Philosophy and Science for Everyone, Ch. 2 Cosmic Heritage Ch. 5, 6; 3 Big Bangs p. 14 (Add aspects of religious side??)	Greg Hilston	3/3	Nicholas Marcellino
8	What are Dark and Dark Energy? Do they exist?	Philosophy and Science for Everyone, Ch. 3	Jon Bower	3/10	
	Spring Break				

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9	Anthropic Principle – Why is the universe as it is or is there a multiverse?	Philosophy and Science for Everyone, Ch. 4	<i>Nicholas Marcellino</i>	3/24	
10	When, where, how did life start - How did it evolve	Cosmic Heritage Ch. 8, 11, 12, 13; 3 Big Bangs p. 48, 56	<i>Seth Goodnight</i> <i>Randall Kezar</i>	3/31	
11	Do our modern skulls house stone-age minds?	Philosophy and Science for Everyone, Ch. 5 (add some of “Embodied Cognition”)	<i>Lauren Maurice</i>	4/7	
12	From intelligent machines to human brain	Philosophy and Science for Everyone, Ch. 6	<i>Tiffany DeGroot</i>	4/14	
13	What is Consciousness?	Philosophy and Science for Everyone, Ch. 7 Cosmic Heritage Ch. 14, 15, 16; 3 Big Bangs p. 66, 89, 92; <i>Prinz, W., Open minds: the social making of agency and intentionality; Ch. 1</i>	<i>Chantal Surles</i>	4/21	
14	Are we alone?	Cosmic Heritage Ch. 17	<i>John O’ Brien</i>	4/28	