HONORS SEMINAR: Faith and Reason

Fall 2017

IHP 201-02
Wednesdays: 12:00-2:40
CH 324

Professor: Dr. Charles Don Keyes

Religious experience leads to a certain kind of truth that is not otherwise accessible. It can be apprehended rationally.

The relation between biblical faith and natural science will be given special attention. This will show why there is tension between faith and reason and how reason overcomes that tension.


Students will give oral seminar reports leading to discussion. Each student will choose the topic of the report based on the following suggested authors, themes, or some combination of those. Authors include, but are not limited to: Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, Hume, Dostoevsky, Dawkins, and Polkinghorne. Themes include, but are not limited to: evolution and creation, global warming, the evil of innocent suffering, and new arguments about life after death.

The course concludes by studying the aesthetics of faith and reason, referring to a new Eastern Orthodox philosophical theology by David Bentley Hart in The Beauty of the Infinite: The Aesthetics of Christian Faith. The class will focus on his argument that the ultimate theology of creation can be found in the fugues of Johann Sebastian Bach.