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The Seminar on Religion and World Civilization is a
program of the Center for Faith and Vocation at Butler
University, promoting understanding of interfaith and
intercultural relations through the discussion of religious
issues in global perspective.

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Seminar Speakers

**DARWINISM, NATURAL THEOLOGY AND MORAL VALUES**  
**Sept. 16, 2008**

Many contemporary biologists argue that Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection shows that the natural world is amoral and non-progressive. Darwin's own views were more complex. This session will explore how Darwin thought about the relationship between the biological, moral and divine orders, and consider how his views may inform contemporary debates.

**Speaker**

Dr. Robert Richards is Morris Fishbein Professor of the History of Science and Medicine at the University of Chicago. He is the author of several books, including *The Meaning of Evolution: The Morphological Construction and Ideological Reconstruction of Darwin’s Theory*.

**Respondents**

Dr. Douglas Allchin teaches history and philosophy of science at the University of Minnesota.  
Dr. Michael Zimmerman is dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Science, Butler University and professor of biology.

**INTERFAITH PERSPECTIVES ON DARWINISM**  
**Jan. 27, 2009**

Discussion of Darwinism and religion has often focused on conflicts between evolutionary theory and certain Christian views about creation. In this session panelists will offer a broader perspective, considering how different faith traditions can make sense of the natural world described by Charles Darwin's theory.

**Panelists**

Dr. C. Mackenzie Brown is King Professor of Religion at Trinity University in Texas. His research focuses on Hinduism as well as the relation between religion and science in the East and West.

Dr. Lisa Sideris is an assistant professor of religion at Indiana University in Bloomington. Her research focuses on world religions and ecology, science and religion and evolution controversies.

Dr. Claire Baker teaches chemistry at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis. She holds a master of theological studies degree from St. Meinrad School of Theology in southern Indiana.

**DARWINISM AND POLITICAL THOUGHT**  
**Oct. 21, 2008**

Since the publication of *The Origin of Species*, both promoters and detractors have argued that Charles Darwin's theory has profound implications for how we understand human beings as social and political animals. This session will explore how political thinkers, both liberal and conservative and secular and religious, have responded to Darwin's thought.

**Speaker**

Dr. Carson Holloway is assistant professor of political science at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is a specialist in political philosophy and author of *The Right Darwin? Evolution, Religion, and the Future of Democracy*.

**Respondent**

Dr. Susan Curtis is professor of history and the director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program at Purdue University. She is the author of *A Consuming Faith: The Social Gospel and Modern American Culture*.

**DARWINISM AND THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION**  
**Feb. 24, 2009**

The Darwinian theory of evolution has given rise to a field of scientific research that considers how human religious behavior could have evolved through a process of natural selection. This session will examine the insights and challenges to evolutionary models of religion and religious behavior.

**Speaker**

Dr. Richard Sosis is an associate professor of anthropology and head of the Evolution, Cognition and Culture Program at the University of Connecticut. His work has focused on the evolution of cooperation and the adaptive significance of religious behavior.

**Respondents**

Dr. Elise Edwards is an assistant professor of anthropology, Butler University. Her research interests include historical anthropology and anthropobiology of sport.  
Dr. Christopher Hess is an assistant professor of biology, Butler University. His research interests include evolutionary biology, evolutionary medicine and genetics.

Each seminar meets from 7 to 9 p.m. in Clowes Memorial Hall, on the campus of Butler University. Admission is free, however, tickets are required and must be picked up at the Clowes Hall box office. There is a limit of two tickets per person. The box office is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday. For more information or for group tickets, call (317) 923-7253.