

2008 Taylor Public Lecture Series on

# Religion & Culture

## Dr. Denis O. Lamoureux

(PhD, University of Alberta; PhD, University of St. Michael's College)  
Associate Professor of Science & Religion  
St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB



# 1

Thursday 9 October 2008 - 7:30 pm

## The Religious Evolution of Charles Darwin: A Christian Perspective

Was Charles Darwin an atheist? A Christian? Or an agnostic? Few will dispute that his theory of biological evolution had significant implications that reached far beyond science, even to religion. In his best-seller *The Blind Watchmaker*, Richard Dawkins proclaims that "Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist." This presentation reviews passages from Darwin's letters and books, and even defends the provocative thesis that Darwin made it possible, for the presenter, to be an intellectually fulfilled theist!

Thursday 23 October 2008 - 7:30 pm

## Dust, Daemons, and the Demiurge in "The Golden Compass"

Upon the release of "The Golden Compass," the film adaptation of the first book in Philip Pullman's fantasy trilogy, *His Dark Materials*, Christians across North America campaigned to boycott, or if possible, ban the film entirely. While Pullman is clearly an atheist, and his trilogy is purportedly anti-Christian, many Christians profess to be great fans of the series. Is Pullman's series the atheist answer to Narnia, or has the series failed in its author's stated intention? This lecture seeks to determine just how dangerous "The Golden Compass" really is.

# 2



## Mike Perschon

(MA; PhD Student, Comparative Literature, University of Alberta)  
English Instructor, Grant MacEwan College and  
The King's University College  
Edmonton, AB

## Dr. Jeffrey A. McPherson

(PhD, McMaster University)  
Associate Professor of Religion & Theology  
Taylor University College  
Edmonton, AB



# 3

Thursday 6 November 2008 - 7:30 pm

## Whither Evangelicalism? Looking to the Origins of Evangelicalism to Chart its Future

Where does Evangelicalism stand at the beginning of the twenty-first century? Generally speaking, Evangelicalism finds its roots in the Age of Enlightenment and to some extent Enlightenment ideals have come to define certain aspects of Evangelicalism. This presentation seeks to outline the influence of Enlightenment thought on Evangelicalism and to find resources within Evangelicalism to deal with the challenges that this influence raises.

**All lectures are FREE**

and will be held in **STENCEL HALL**, in the **TAYLOR SEMINARY BUILDING**, 11525-23 Avenue (access from the West parking lot off 23 Avenue).

These public lectures are sponsored by the Religion & Theology Department at Taylor University College. For more information about these lectures please check us out on-line at [www.taylor-edu.ca](http://www.taylor-edu.ca) or contact Tyler F. Williams, Chair, Religion & Theology Department, Taylor University College, Phone 780-431-5217, Email: [tyler.williams@taylor-edu.ca](mailto:tyler.williams@taylor-edu.ca)



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