



Essential Philosophy with Dr. David Schenk

Lesson 16: The Fine-Tuning Argument for the Existence of God

Outline:

Fine-Tuning Argument Introduction

- ***Fine-Tuning Argument summary:*** The entire physical cosmos must have been meticulously ordered or designed (“fine-tuned”) in the beginning to allow for intelligent life to emerge or develop in the first place.
- This is an argument made exclusively from physics, astrophysics, or physical cosmology (not from biology or biological creatures).
- This argument is compatible with Old Earth Creationism or Theistic Evolution.

Vectors of the Fine-Tuning Argument (5:10)

- Each of these vectors independently supports an intelligently designed cosmos. Having 3 separate Fine-Tuning “vectors,” strengthens the overall argument.
 - Fine-tuning of fundamental laws of physics themselves
 - Fine-tuning of constants for fundamental laws of physics
 - Fine-tuning of the initial distribution of mass-energy of the universe at the time of the big bang

Robin Collins’ Fine-Tuning Argument PowerPoint (8:40)

*PowerPoint provided with the lecture video materials

- Slides Covered in this Lecture: *The slide numbers that Dr. Schenk uses in this lesson are provided below. Please follow along with the PowerPoint as you listen to Dr. Schenk’s lecture.*
 - **Slides 1 to 5 = Introduction to the Fine-Tuning Argument**
 - **Slides 6 to 18 = Fine-Tuning of Laws**
 - Slide 7 = ***Example 1: Universal Attractive Force - Gravity:*** Without gravity, there would be no stars or planets, and therefore no life!
 - Slide 9 = ***Example 2: Existence of Electromagnetic Force:*** Without an electromagnetic force, there would be no atoms or complex chemistry, and therefore no life! Additionally, on top of an electromagnetic force there are other complex systems, such as the Principle of Quantization and the Pauli Exclusion Principle.



- *All in all, these laws (Gravity, Electromagnetism, a strong nuclear force, the Principle of Quantization, and the Pauli-Exclusion Principle) exist to support complex life.* Without them, complex life could not exist.
- **Slides 19 to 34 = Fine-Tuning of the Constants (24:55)**
 - Constants are needed to express the fundamental laws of physics (formulas, ratios, etc.). *The fundamental numbers (constants) that occur in the laws of physics are precisely adjusted to allow for complex life to emerge.* With any changes to these constants, all types of disasters would occur!
 - Slide 23 = Example 1: Ruler Representation of Force Strengths (27:37)
 - **Range of Force Strengths Example:** A nuclear force (the strongest force strength) is 1040 times stronger than gravity (the weakest force strength). This means that gravity is extremely finely tuned to give us life-supporting conditions!
 - If you move the gravitational constant (G) any more than one-trillionth of an inch, disaster would occur, such as gravity crushing single-celled organisms.
 - Slide 28 = Example 2: Radio Dial Analogy