



Social Studies/History

Session 1

The Galileo Affair: Conflict or Confusion?

Professor Cory Hayes

The so-called “Galileo Affair” (1516-1533) is often cited as evidence of the Roman Catholic Church’s antagonism towards science. In this talk Dr. Hayes explores the history, characters, and issues surrounding the trial and condemnation of Galileo Galilei in order to show that the affair was far more complex than modern pundits make it out to be.

[Link to online talk.](#)

Session 2

Rights and Right: Two Rival Conceptions

Professor Cory Hayes

Two of the most basic assumptions in much of our discourse about politics are that there are such things as “rights” and that all people have them. In this talk Dr. Hayes explores the idea that some of our assumptions typical assumptions about rights may be more problematic than we usually suppose because there are at least two competing conceptions of rights: that of the Enlightenment and that of the Natural Law tradition. Which conception might we want to choose and why?

[Link to online talk.](#)