

# Lectures on Pure and Applied Physics



## Announcing

A Seminar Presentation  
on October 15, 2015

at 4:30 pm in Maxcy 203

at The University of New Haven

### Dr. Joel Marks

Professor Emeritus, Philosophy  
The University of New Haven

### Title: It Can't Happen Now: Fallacious Complacency about Planetary Defense

#### Abstract:

It is now generally recognized that Earth is at risk of collisions with asteroids and comets that could do us great harm. Impressive strides in our understanding of this hazard have been made in recent decades, and various efforts to deal with it have been undertaken. However, current policy favors defending against near-Earth asteroids to the almost complete neglect of long-period comets, as well as against potential "city-killers" to the almost complete neglect of extinction-size impactors. I will argue that this policy is based on mistaken interpretations of probability and risk.

#### Further Information

For further information, please contact Angie Domschine at the Department of Mathematics, Office: Maxcy 204, 203-932-7250, ADomschine@newhaven.edu. Note that Dr. Marks also will be at the Math and Physics Club meeting at 6:00pm on October 15, presenting *Is the Sky Falling? Collisions with Asteroids and Comets*.