

Physics Seminar

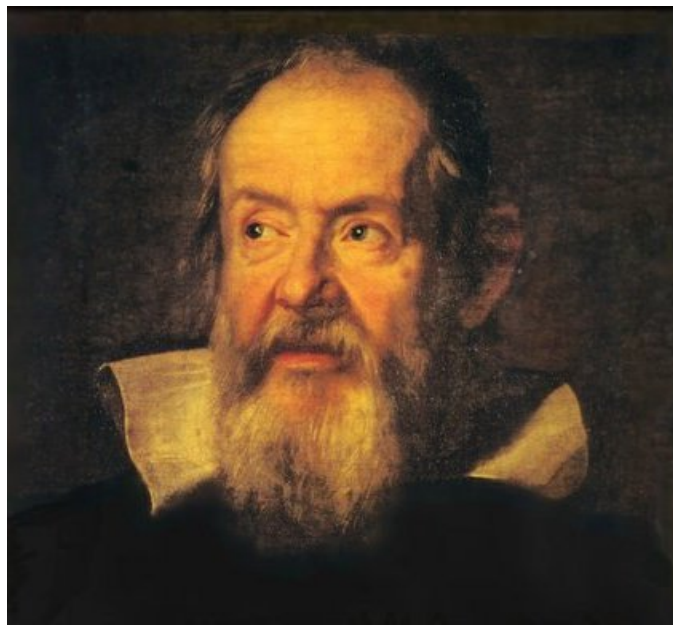
Wednesday 2/20/2008, 4:30 pm
Science & Engineering Building Auditorium

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Why Did the Church Have a Problem with Galileo?

Most of us know that The Church (which church, and which part, exactly?) did something nasty to Galileo (details are often remembered fuzzily), and the story we are taught is that The Church did so because Galileo dared to reveal the truth by doing science, or proposing that the earth orbited the sun (or something like that).



Even if this is exactly what happened (and I will argue that much of what we are taught about the Galileo affair is myth), it still leaves unexplained exactly why The Church would have a problem: was it simply that the Church hates science, or was there something about Galileo's work on his heliocentric model of the solar system that bothered them? But, again, why would The Church have a problem with either? In this talk, I propose to examine carefully the details of the case, the science and theology involved, and try to discern the motivations behind the actions of those involved.

Please join us for light refreshments at 4:15pm outside SEB 203.