Galileo the Platonist

James Simmons Ph.D.
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12:05 – 12:30 pm
Clark Memorial Library Learning Lab

Dr. Simmons received his B.A. from Carleton College in 1979 and his M.S. from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 1981. He received his Ph.D. from Purdue University in 1988. Previously, he taught at Concordia College, Universidade Pedagógica de Moçambique, and Waynesburg University. He has been at SSU since 2007.

Presentation Summary:

Galileo is often imagined to be a revolutionary figure, one of the founders of modern science, but the truth is much more interesting. In this talk, Dr. Simmons looks at one Galilean idea inspired by Plato. He explains how this example is useful in general education courses that deal with the nature of science and scientific reasoning. It can also be the source of problems for introductory- or intermediate-level physics students.