

## Darwin's *Origin of Species* and *Descent of Man*

Instructor: Robert J. Richards

Course Assistants: Ashley Clark and Emma Kitchen

Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m.-1:50 p.m. in Cobb Hall 102

HIST 24905/34905, PHIL 23015/33015, CHSS 38400, HiPS 24901, FUNDL 24905

### I. Texts

A. The following texts are in the Seminary Co-operative Bookstore (5751 Woodlawn Ave.) under HiPSS 24901:

Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* (Harvard University Press)

Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex* (Princeton)

Peter Bowler, *Evolution: the History of an Idea*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Univ. of California)

Jonathan Hodge and Gregory Radick (eds.), *Cambridge Companion to Darwin* (Cambridge University Press).

(Note: The Darwin texts are also on the Canvas site (modules menu) in pdf form. Some of you will presumably want to buy the *Origin of Species*.)

### B. Packets of Photocopies:

*Selected Readings in Evolutionary Theory* (available on Canvas and sold in hardcopy in Social Science Building, room 205)

### II. Requirements:

A. You will be responsible for preparing texts assigned for discussion, and it is imperative that you do so. You will also be responsible for the recommended readings marked with an asterisk. The graduate students should do all of the recommended readings.

### B. The written requirements for the course.

1. There will be two possible arrangements for meeting the written requirement of the course, the first for undergraduates and the second for graduate students.

a. For undergraduates: several shorter papers:

1) A 5-8 page paper on sections II to IV—due on Monday, Oct. 16 by 3:00 p.m.

2) Then a series of two page papers on each of the sections of Darwin's *Origin of Species*—due on Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13.

3) A 5-8 page paper on sections IX and X—due on Dec. 4.

b. For graduate students: papers on each of the *Origin* sections and one longer paper at the end of term.

1) Thus, a series of two-page papers on the relevant chapters of Darwin's *Origin of Species*—due on Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13.

2) One longer paper (about 20 pages or so)—due on Dec. 4.

## 2. Character of the papers

a. The 5-8 page papers can be on any topic found in the relevant sections. It should be some problem or concept that you isolate, explain, and provide a resolution for. These should deal with the primary literature (texts for discussion), though may be generated by something in the secondary literature (recommended reading).

b. In the two-page papers, you should select one of the chapters of the *Origin* found in that section and then:

1) Indicate the argument or arguments Darwin is making.

2) Indicate the logical features of the argument and the evidence for the conclusion.

3) Mention the kinds of rhetorical devices he uses.

4) Evaluate the persuasiveness of the argument found in the text.

c. The longer paper (graduate students) can be on any topic derived from the course. It should focus on the primary material for the course, but the argument should also deal with the secondary material.

d. The 5-8 page papers and the longer paper should be in hard copy, typed, stapled, and *handed in on the date due*. Turn them into the administrative assistant in the Fishbein Center (Social Sciences 205).

You must also retain a copy of your paper.

***e. Undergraduates should send their two-page papers to the Canvas site. They should be sent by noon of the Monday prior to class. Graduate students should send them directly to me, via email.***

f. All of your papers must have: 1) your name, 2) the date, and 3) your status (i.e. grad student or undergrad).

#### IV. General Information:

A. Richards: Office: Social Sciences Research 205. Hours: Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00; Fridays 2:00-3:45 p.m. (but best to make an appointment). Home page: <http://home.uchicago.edu/~rjr6>; email: [r-richards@uchicago.edu](mailto:r-richards@uchicago.edu).

B. Ashley Clark ([ashleyclark@uchicago.edu](mailto:ashleyclark@uchicago.edu)); Emma Kitchen ([elkitchen@uchicago.edu](mailto:elkitchen@uchicago.edu)).

(Sept. 26)

I. Introduction: Darwin's Biology: From the *Origin* to the Religious Wars of the late 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

A. Text for discussion:

1. Video (15 minutes) by Jonathan Wells, Berkeley Professor, attempting to show major evidence for Darwinian evolution is flawed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZn7tTdCm6U>.

2. Video (5 minutes) by David Berlinski, Princeton trained Philosopher, denying there is anything to evolutionary theory—certainly not a theory comparable to what you find in physics:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOTGb8hKyWE>.

3. Preface and short biography of Darwin, from *Debating Darwin* (2016) by Robert J. Richards and Michael Ruse. (The preface will indicate the theme of the course—and the opposition.)

(October 3)

II. Early Evolutionists: Erasmus Darwin and Lamarck

A. Texts for discussion:

1. Erasmus Darwin, "Generation," *Zoonomia* (2nd ed., 1796), sect. 39. In *Selected Readings in Evolutionary Theory I*.

2. Jean-Baptiste de Lamarck, "Selections from the 'Discours d'overture' of 1800 and from *Système des animaux sans vertèbres* (1801), translated in *Selected Readings in Evolutionary Theory I*.

3. Lamarck, "Of the Influence of the Environment on the Activities and Habits of Animals," *Zoological Philosophy* (1809; trans., 1914), trans. H. Elliot, pp. 106-127. In *Selected Readings in Evolutionary Theory I*.

B. Recommended reading:

1. \*Bowler, *Evolution*, chap. 4 (pp. 96-140).

(October 10)

III. Darwin's Voyage of Romantic Adventure

A. Texts for discussion (page numbers refer to Darwin's own pagination, not to the photocopy):

1. Charles Darwin, *The Voyage of the Beagle* (1839) preface, chap 1 (pp. 1-7); chap. 8 (200- 212); chap. 19--Galapagos Islands (pp. 453-478); conclusion (pp. 602-08). In *Selected Readings I*.

2. Charles Darwin, *Beagle Diary* (1831-1836), Galapagos Islands, pp. 351-64. In *Selected Readings I*.

3. Charles Lyell, "Lamarck's Theory," *Principles of Geology* (1830-33), vol. 2: chap. 2 (pp. 18-35); chap. 10 (158-75); chap 11 (pp. 176-84). In *Selected Readings I*.

B. Recommend reading:

1. \*Phillip Sloan, "The Making of a Philosophical Naturalist," in *Cambridge Companion*, pp. 17-39.

2. Bowler, *Evolution*, chap. 5 (141-55).

(October 17)

IV. The Development of Darwin's Early Views

A. Texts for discussion:

1. Charles Darwin, Extracts from Notebooks B, C, D, and E (1837-1839). In *Selected Readings I*.

2. Charles Darwin, "Essay" of 1842, in Francis Darwin (ed.), *Foundations of the Origin of Species* (1909), pp. 1-52. In *Selected Readings I*.

B. Recommended Reading:

1. \*Michael Ruse, "Darwin and Metaphor."

2. Jonathan Hodge, "The Notebook Programmes and Projects of Darwin's London Years," in *Cambridge Companion*, pp. 40-68.

3. Bowler, *Evolution*, chaps. 5 (155-176).

(October 24)

V. Darwin's Origin of Species, 1

A. Text for discussion:

1. Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species*, "Introduction" (Darwin's), chaps. 1-2.

2. Charles Darwin, "Variation under Nature," *Charles Darwin's Natural Selection (1856-1858)*, ed. Stauffer, pp. 138-167. In *Selected Readings*.

B. Recommend Reading: \*Ernst Mayr, "The Biological Meaning of Species," *Evolution and the Diversity of Life*, chap. 35. In *Selected Readings*.

(October 31)

VI. Darwin's *Origin of Species*, 2

A. Text for discussion: Darwin, *Origin of Species*, chaps. 3-4.

B. Recommended reading:

1. \*R. Richards, "Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection and Its Moral Purpose," in *Cambridge Companion to the Origin of Species*, ed. R. Richards and M. Ruse (Cambridge University Press, 2009). In *Selected Readings*
2. C. K. Waters, "The Arguments in the *Origin of Species*," in *Cambridge Companion*, pp. 116-42.

(November 7)

VII. Darwin's *Origin of Species*, 3

A. Text for discussion:

1. Darwin, *Origin of Species*, chaps. 6-7
2. The argument from design (19<sup>th</sup> century version):
  - a) William Paley, "State of the Argument" and "The Argument Cumulative," from his *Natural Theology* (1802), chaps 1 and 6 (pp. 5-8, 43-45). In *Selected Readings*.
  - b) David Hume, Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion, part 2. In *Selected Readings*.

B. Recommended reading: Bowler, *Evolution*, chap. 6 (pp. 177-223).

(November 14)

VIII. Darwin's *Origin of Species*, 4

A. Text for discussion: Darwin, *Origin of Species*, chaps. 13-14.

B. Recommended reading:

1. \*Lynn Nyhart, "Embryology and Morphology in the *Origin of Species*," *Cambridge Companion to the Origin of Species*. In *Selected Readings*.
2. J. B. Brooke, "Darwin and Victorian Christianity," in *Cambridge Companion*, pp. 192-213.
3. Elliott Sober, "Metaphysical and Epistemological Issues in Modern Darwinian Theory," in *Cambridge Companion*, pp. 267-87.

(November 21)

IX. Darwin's *Descent of Man*

A. Text for discussion: Darwin's *Descent of Man*, chaps 3 and 5.

B. Recommended reading:

1. Jonathan Haidt, *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* (2012), selections. In *Selected Readings*.
2. R. Richards, "Evolutionary Ethics: A Theory of Moral Realism," in *Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Ethics* (2016). In *Selected Readings*.

(November 28)

X. The Culture Wars: Was Darwin Responsible for Hitler's Biological Ideas?

A. Texts for discussion:

1. The Scopes Trial (Mencken's account and trial transcripts), in *Selected Readings in Evolutionary Theory*.
2. Video lecture based on Richard Weikart's book *From Darwin to Hitler*: <http://www.uctv.tv/search-details.aspx?showID=8987>.
3. Robert Richards: "Was Hitler a Darwinian?" in Richards, *Was Hitler a Darwinian? Disputed Questions in the History of Evolutionary Theory* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2013), in *Selected Readings in Evolutionary Theory*.
4. Weikart: Rallying to Darwin's Defense: Robert J. Richards and the Historical Record." See website: [http://www.evolutionnews.org/2011/11/rallying\\_to\\_dar053511.html](http://www.evolutionnews.org/2011/11/rallying_to_dar053511.html)