

HIS 4472

THE HISTORY OF EVOLUTIONARY THOUGHT FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT TO THE PRESENT

Prof. Vassiliki Betty Smocovitis
Spring 2016
Tuesdays 10 E1 (5:10pm-8:10pm)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the history of evolutionary thought from the Enlightenment to the present. In addition to examining the development of scientific ideas concerning evolution, the course also examines the lives of critically important individuals like Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace, and the varied sociopolitical and national contexts of evolutionary work, especially in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The course also focuses on contemporary debates pertaining to evolution and its teaching in American high schools and on the complex relations between evolution and American popular culture. Following historical discussion, the recent status of evolutionary science is examined in historical context.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Peter Bowler, *Evolution: The History of an Idea*, 25th anniversary edition
2. Edward Larson, *Summer for the Gods*
3. Edward Humes, *Monkey Girl: Evolution, Education, Religion and the Battle for America's Soul*.
4. Selections from the written work of Charles Darwin (*Voyage of the Beagle*, *On the Origin of Species*) (available in Canvas, our learning platform)

EVALUATION:

Course evaluation follows the organization of the course. There will be two in-class exams, and one take-home final essay worth 30% respectively. Students are expected to attend lectures, films, and complete all reading assignments in time for class. The final 10% of the grade is based on class participation including attendance. Please note: the textbook serves as a supplement to the lectures. You are expected to do all readings assigned, but you will not be examined directly from the textbook (Bowler) for any of the in-class examinations. The final take-home essay will be based on both lectures and the readings assigned as well as the films. Exam format includes short answers, matches, and longer essays. Make-up exams are not encouraged, but possible, given sufficient explanation (eg. physician's note) for absence.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week One: Introduction. Goals and Aims of Course

Week Two: The "Idea" of Evolution and the Prehistory of Evolution

Reading: Bowler, *Evolution*, Chapter 1. "The Idea of Evolution: Its Scope and Implications;" Chapter 2. "The Pre-Evolutionary Worldview."

Week Three: The Enlightenment

Readings: Chapter 3, "Evolution in the Enlightenment;" Readings: Bowler, Chapter 4. "Nature and Society;" Tennyson's "In Memoriam. "

Week Four: The Life of Charles Darwin

Reading: Bowler, *Evolution*, Chapter 5, "The Development of Darwin's Theory"; selections from the *Voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle*

Week Five: The Life of Charles Darwin

Film and Discussion: *Creation*

Week Six: Why Darwin, not Wallace? What Darwin Really Said

Reading: Bowler, *Evolution*, Chapter 5, "The Development of Darwin's Theory;" selections from *On the Origin of Species*.

Week Seven: Exam #1. In Class Wednesday

Week Eight: After the "Origin." The Moral, Religious and Philosophical Implications of Darwin's Theory

Readings: Bowler, *Evolution*. Chapter 6, "The Reception of Darwin's Theory." Readings: Bowler, *Evolution*, Chapter 7, "The Eclipse of Darwinism: Scientific Evolutionism, 1875-1925." Bowler, *Evolution*, Chapter 8, "Evolution, Society and Culture."

Week Nine: Spring Break

Week Ten: The Sociopolitical Contexts of Evolutionism: Social Darwinism and Eugenics.

Readings: Bowler, *Evolution*, Chapter 8, "Evolution, Society and Culture;" Rudyard Kipling's "White Man's Burden," Andrew Carnegie, "The Gospel of Wealth," Theodore Roosevelt's, "The Strenuous Life."

Week Eleven: Anthropology, Human Evolution and Race; The Evolutionary Synthesis, Modern Debates and Developments.

Readings: Bowler, *Evolution*, Chapter 8, "Evolution, Society and Culture;" Bowler, *Evolution*, Chapter 9, "The Evolutionary Synthesis," Chapter 10, "Modern Debates and Developments."

Week Twelve: Exam #2. In Class Wednesday

Week Thirteen and Fourteen: Evolution and American Popular Culture I. The Scopes "Monkey Trial"

Reading: Edward Larson, *Summer for the Gods*.

Film and Discussion: *Inherit the Wind*.

Passed Out: Take-Home Final Essay Exam Questions, Due Friday, April

23rd.

Week Fifteen: Evolution and American Popular Culture II. Dover

Reading: Edward Humes, *Monkey Girl: Evolution, Education, Religion and the Battle for America's Soul*.

Film: *Judgment Day*.

Week Sixteen: "Singing His Praises": Evolution and American Popular III. Grand Finale.

Reading: Vassiliki Betty Smocovitis, "Singing His Praises: Darwin and His Theory in Song and Musical Production," *Isis*, 2009: 590-614.

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PLEASE NOTE: *Only approved electronic devices may be used in class. Approved electronic devices are laptop computers (when used to take notes or otherwise participate in classroom activities) and voice recording devices. Unapproved electronic devices include cell phones, video recorders, digital cameras and MP3 players.*

UF Counseling Services

- Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. The resources include:
 - UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd, 392-1575, psychological and psychiatric services.
 - Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career and job search services.
- Many students experience test anxiety and other stress related problems. "A Self Help Guide for Students" is available through the Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575) and at their web site: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/>.

Honesty Policy

- All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and

understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

- In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: *“On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”*
- If you witness any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify the instructor or contact the Student Honor Court (392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (392-6999). For additional information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the University of Florida Academic Honesty Guidelines at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html>.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

- Students who will require a classroom accommodation for a disability must contact the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources, in Peabody 202 (phone: 352-392-1261). Please see the University of Florida Disability Resources website for more information at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/services/>.
- It is the policy of the University of Florida that the student, not the instructor, is responsible for arranging accommodations when needed. Once notification is complete, the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources will work with the instructor to accommodate the student.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and student of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.