

**HIS 4472//ZOO 4926
(4926/23433)**

THE HISTORY OF EVOLUTIONARY THOUGHT FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT TO THE PRESENT



Prof. Vassiliki Betty Smocovitis

Fall 2019

Tuesday 1:55-4:55

Office: 617 Carr Hall

Office Hours: Wednesday 12-2 pm

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the history of evolutionary thinking 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 science, 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. Charles Darwin, *Voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle*, Penguin Classics
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 Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species*; V. B. Smocovitis, "Singing His Praises: Darwin and His Theory in Song and Musical Production," *Isis*, 2009: 590-614 (both available on Canvas)

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. Students are allowed two legitimate absences only. The final 10% of the grade is based on class participation including attendance. Please note: the textbook serves as a supplement to the lectures. Students are expected to do all readings assigned, but 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 any films or resources shared with the class. Exam format includes short answers, matches, and longer essays. Make-up exams are not encouraged, but possible, given sufficient explanation (e.g. physician's note) for absence.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week One (August 20): Introduction. Goals and Aims of Course

Week Two (August 27): 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 (September 3): The Enlightenment

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

Week Four (September 10. No Class, Study Week): The Life of Charles Darwin I

Reading: Charles Darwin, *The Voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle*, Penguin Classics

Week Five (September 17): The Life of Charles Darwin II

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

Week Six (September 24): 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 (October 1): Exam #1. In Class October 1.

Week Eight (October 8): 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 (October 15): 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 Ten (October 22): 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 Eleven (October 29): Exam #2. In Class.

Week Twelve and Thirteen (November 5; November 12) Evolution and American Popular Culture I. The Scopes "Monkey Trial"

Reading: Edward Larson, *Summer for the Gods*.
Film and Discussion: *Inherit the Wind*.

Week Fourteen (November 19): 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*.

Final Take Home Exam Passed out in Class. Due by Wednesday December 4,th 5pm. Please either leave in my mailbox in Bartram Hall Mail Room, under door of 617 Carr.

Week Fifteen: "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; Video

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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

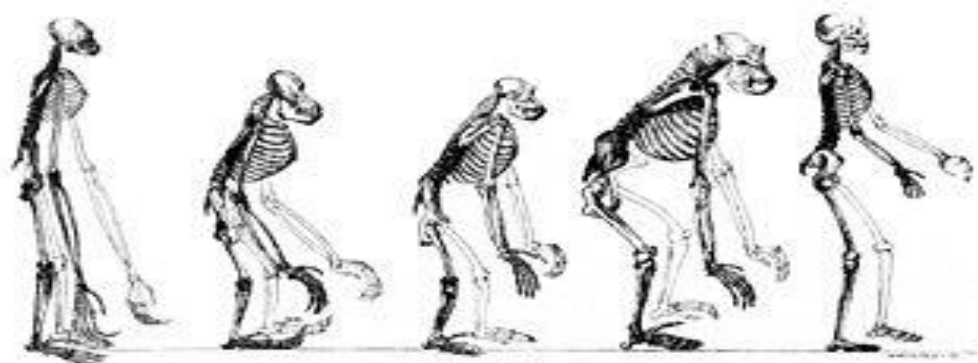
- Students who will require a classroom accommodation for a disability must contact the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources, in Peabody 202 (phone: 352-392-1261). Please see the University of Florida Disability Resources website for more information at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/services/>.
- 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.

Evaluations

Please note: Students in this class are participating in the pilot evaluation of the new course evaluation system called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors so that teaching effectiveness is enhanced and to be more seamlessly linked to UF's CANVAS learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_ufl.bluera.com_ufl_&d=DwlGaQ&c=sJ6xIWYx-zLMB3EPkvcnVg&r=1qtWVKU2uNohMAWR5pYYVu0F_ty9jxk4wl-DcSEfmKub76k8eaDIYyGQkZMpCQZ6&m=KCQMaruvDccGkQ95LBWWejChKpHpd3olzGps63zo0Ao&s=2ry1lk1Sd2MT9xMTXgaRslOLmzE7-Mky8W2E_HUO3wQ&e= . Please note your other classes this semester may be evaluated in the current GatorRater online evaluation system at [\[https://evaluations.ufl.edu<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/\]https://evaluations.ufl.edu<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/>](https://evaluations.ufl.edu) . Thank you for serving as a partner in this important effort.



GIBBON.

ORANG.

Skeleton of the
CHIMPANZEE.

GORILLA.

MAN.

*Photographically reduced from Diagrams of the natural size (except that of the Gibbon, which was twice as large as nature),
drawn by Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins from specimens in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons.*