

*HIS 4472//ZOO 4926*  
*THE HISTORY OF EVOLUTIONARY THOUGHT FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT TO*  
*THE PRESENT*



Prof. Vassiliki Betty Smocovitis  
Fall 2021: Online Zoom Edition, Canvas Platform  
Tuesday: Periods 7-9, 1:55-4:55  
Office: 617 Carr Hall  
Office Hours Wednesdays 1:00 pm or Online or by Appointment  
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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 twentieth centuries. The course also focuses on contemporary debates pertaining to evolution and its teaching in US high schools and on the complex relations between evolution and US 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*, 25<sup>th</sup> 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. Charles Darwin, Selections from *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)
5. Film, *Inherit the Wind*, Shared Zoom Viewing after Class Hours, or Amazon Prime Rental

## EVALUATION:

This is a three-credit online lecture/discussion course. Course evaluation follows the organization of the course. There will be four 2-page reaction/response papers worth 5% each for 20% of the grade, and a final take-home essay exam worth 40%. An in-class presentation on evolution in US popular culture at the end of the semester is worth 20% of the grade. The final 20% of the grade is based on class participation including attendance. Students are expected to attend lectures, films and presentations, and complete all reading assignments in time for class. Students are allowed two legitimate absences. Please note: the textbook serves as a supplement to the lectures. Students are expected to do all readings assigned. The final take-home essay exam will be based on both lectures and the readings assigned as well as any films or resources shared with the class. Make-up exams are not encouraged, but possible, given sufficient explanation (e.g. physician's note) for absence. Given the COVID pandemic, medical accommodations will be considered.

## TENTATIVE 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 (September 3): 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 I

Reading: Charles Darwin, *The Voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle*, Penguin Classics  
**Assignment#1: Reaction/Response Paper Due by Monday on Canvas at 12 pm (Noon)**

### Week Five: 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 (Frontmatter)*

### 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* (Chapters 1-4; Final Chapter).  
**Assignment #2: Reaction/Response Paper Due by Monday on Canvas at 12 pm (Noon)**

### Week Seven: 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 Eight: 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 Nine: 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 Ten and Eleven: Evolution and US Popular Culture I. The Scopes "Monkey Trial"

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

Film and Discussion: *Inherit the Wind*.

**Assignment Number #3: Reaction/Response Paper Due Week Eleven by Monday on Canvas at 12 pm (Noon)**

Week Twelve (November 19): Evolution and US Popular Culture II. Dover

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

**Assignment Number #4: Reaction/Response Paper by Monday on Canvas at 12 pm (Noon)**

Week Thirteen: "Singing His Praises": Evolution and American Popular Culture.

Reading: Vassiliki Betty Smocovitis, "Singing His Praises: Darwin and His Theory in Song and Musical Production," *Isis*, 2009: 590-614; Videos of Evolution and American Popular Culture

Week Fourteen: Evolution and Popular Culture

Powerpoint Zoom presentations

**Take Home Essay Questions Sent out Due on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at pm on Canvas**

Week Fifteen: Evolution and Popular Culture

Powerpoint Zoom presentations

#### GUIDELINES FOR ASSIGNMENTS AND REACTION PAPERS

The goal of the assignment is to encourage students to engage critically the issues raised by the readings assigned, and to come to class prepared to engage in class discussion. I suspect that there will be some similarities in points of view, but each paper will (I hope) reflect the opinions of each reader and author. I cannot therefore give you a fixed set of standards or any formula for writing papers, though I can help refine the goals of the assignment and offer the following as guidelines.

**Length:** Each paper should be a minimum of 2 double-spaced typewritten pages (regular font or 12 points). You may extend the length of your paper to no longer than 3 pages.

**Structure:** This paper *is not a review* of the readings or any of the books assigned. Do not attempt to write a full-fledged description of the books. Somewhere in the text, you should, however, summarize the "point" of the book. In other words, try to interpret the book in about one paragraph. This could be in your introduction. Your response or reaction to the texts should form the main body of the essay. Feel free to ask critical questions in these essays or point to any shortcomings in the readings or books. Keep in mind, however, that "critical" does not necessarily mean a negative assessment, but a rigorous and thoughtful analysis that brings into relief the issues raised by a particular subject.

**Style:** Please feel free to use the "I" personal form if you so wish; but try to avoid over-personalized responses. The essay should maintain a scholarly tone, but should also avoid pedantic, pretentious academic-eze. Do not overuse the passive voice; this is not a laboratory write-up, but a critical essay.

**Suggestions for reading:** Please do not engage the readings as you would of standard textbooks in psychology, chemistry, biology, or astronomy. Jot down notes only when necessary; you do not need to highlight the text, although some notation or highlighting may help. Pay close attention to what the author is trying to achieve by reading the background material if it is included (e.g. preface, foreword, introduction etc.). Familiarize yourself with the author by doing additional research if necessary in the library (you may use any of the biographical sources in the science library or on the internet).

Include a bibliography or reference section if you have relied on additional sources. The formatting is flexible. Be judicious with your reliance on the internet as it is not peer-refereed information.

## POLICIES

### Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Your voice matters. Thank you for serving as a partner in this important effort.

### 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 with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. Click here to

get started with the Disability Resource Center: <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### UF Counseling Services

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

### UF Official Statement on COVID-19

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
- You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
  - Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
  - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email [covid@shcc.ufl.edu](mailto:covid@shcc.ufl.edu)) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has

tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.

- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
  - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- Continue to regularly visit [coronavirus.UFHealth.org](https://coronavirus.UFHealth.org) and [coronavirus.ufl.edu](https://coronavirus.ufl.edu) for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

#### Class Policy on Zoom Discussions

- **Class session will be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back to, or for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or who utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the “chat” feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared.**

#### 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.

#### Academic Resources

Students are encouraged to make use of the following helpful resources on campus:

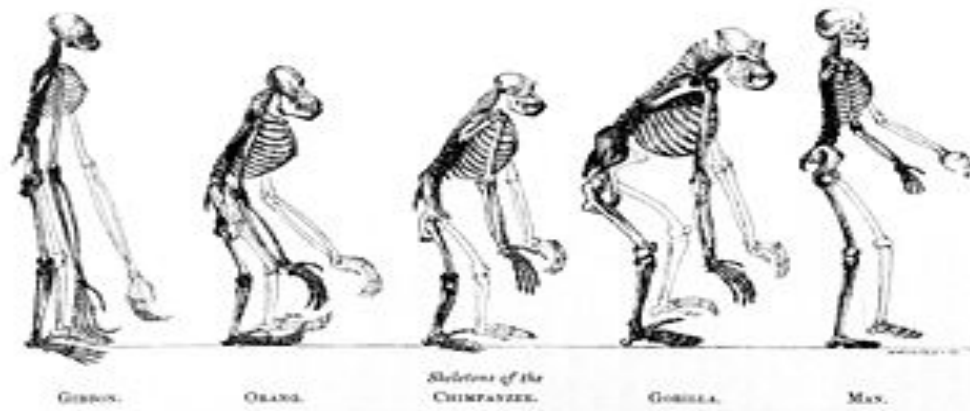
E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420.  
General study skills and tutoring: Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138.  
Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information. On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.



GIBBON. ORANG. Skeletons 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.*