

History 428: Darwinian Revolution

Spring, 2005

132 Hawthorne, MWF, 10:00 - 10:50 AM

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Office Hours: M and T, 1:30-2:30; W and F, 11:00-12:00, and by appointment

Textbooks: Peter J. Bowler, Evolution: The History of an Idea, Third Edition (University of California Press, 2003).
Michael Ruse, The Evolution Wars: A Guide to the Debates (Rutgers University Press, 2002).
Charles Darwin, The Portable Darwin, Duncan M. Porter and Peter W. Graham, eds., (Penguin Books, 1993).

Objectives:

This class gives a thorough historical review of the origins, development, and implications of evolutionary theory. During the first three weeks, we review the earliest work in natural history including early ideas of evolution. During the six weeks following that, we concentrate on Charles Darwin's theory of evolution and its immediate reception. During the last six weeks, we consider relatively recent developments and debates concerning Darwin's theory, including the Evolutionary Synthesis, Sociobiology, Punctuated Equilibria, and Creationism. When you leave this class, you should have a good overview of the scientific and cultural implications of Darwin's theory, in historical perspective.

Grading:

Reading Worksheets (7 total, drop 1)	15%
Exams (2 total)	30%
Final Exam	20%
Homework Paper	25%
Classroom Participation	10%

Reading Worksheets: These will require you to answer about five short-answer questions on the reading assignments. The reading worksheets will make you ready for discussion in class, as well as the exams.

Exams: These will comprise short-answer (identification-type) questions, and essays.

Homework Paper: This will be an essay of about 15 pages (3,750 words) on a topic that you will choose by the time we return from the spring break (March 14). In addition to the sources used in this course, I ask that you find and use two other sources. A rough draft will be due on April 15 and the final paper will be handed in on April 29.

Classroom participation: Much of this is based on your attendance. The highest scores will be given to those students who come to class prepared to discuss the readings.

Academic Integrity:

At this point in your education, infractions of academic integrity should be obvious. Don't cheat during exams by taking or accepting answers from other students or by sneaking in notes. The homework paper also should be your own effort. As with the exam essays, my objective is to get you to synthesize facts and ideas in your own words. Please do not rely on whole sentences (or paragraphs!) (or papers!) from websites or books.

Ultimately, academic integrity is about not lying to yourself -- about how much effort you are putting forward and about how much you really are accomplishing.

Lecture Schedule:

Skim the reading selections before each lecture and do a careful rereading afterwards. The three textbooks listed on page 1 are referred to below as Bowler, Ruse, and Darwin.

Part I: Before Charles Darwin

M	January 10	Introduction, Bowler, Chapter 1
W	January 12	
F	January 14	Pre-evolutionary ideas, Bowler, Chapter 2
M	January 17	
W	January 19	Evolution and the Enlightenment Bowler, Chapter 3; Ruse, Chapter 1
F	January 21	
M	January 24	
W	January 26	Early 19 th century; Bowler, Chapter 4
F	January 28	

Part II: Charles Darwin's theory of evolution

M	January 31	Development of the theory Bowler, Chapter 5; Ruse, Chapter 2
W	February 2	
F	February 4	
M	February 7	Darwin, pp. 3-7, 71-76, 8-65
W	February 9	
F	February 11	
M	February 14	Darwin, pp. 86-104, 105-159
W	February 16	
F	February 18	
M	February 21	Darwin pp. 159-215, 290-317, 361-363
W	February 23	
F	February 25	EXAM I

M	February 28	Darwin, pp. 321-360, 364-393
W	March 2	
F	March 4	
	March 7 - 11	(Spring Break)
M	March 14	Immediate reception of Darwin's theory Bowler, Chapter 6; Ruse, Chapter 3
W	March 16	
F	March 18	
Part III: Implications and Debates concerning Darwin's theory		
M	March 21	Eclipse of Darwin Bowler, Chapter 7 and 8; Ruse, Chapter 4
W	March 23	
F	March 25	
M	March 28	The Evolutionary Synthesis Bowler, Chapter 9; Ruse, Chapter 5
W	March 30	
F	April 1	
M	April 4	Origin of Life / Human Origins Bowler, Chapter 10; Ruse, Chapters 6 and 7
W	April 6	
F	April 8	EXAM II
M	April 11	Sociobiology; Bowler, Chapter 10; Ruse, Chapter 8
W	April 13	
F	April 15	
M	April 18	Punctuated Equilibria; Bowler, Chapter 10; Ruse, Chapter 9
W	April 20	
F	April 22	
M	April 25	Creationism; Bowler, Chapter 10; Ruse, Chapter 10
W	April 27	
F	April 29	
W	May 4	FINAL EXAM

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