

The Darwin Seminar: An Interdisciplinary Investigation of Evolution

Honors* Course Spring 2023

The Darwin Seminar is a unique and exciting opportunity for honors students to investigate the topic of evolution, its personalities, controversies, and implications. Sections are available in **BIOL** (480vH-001), **CIED** (4503H-001), **HIST** (3923H), **HUMN** (425VH), and **PHIL** (3923H). *Well qualified non-honors students may request permission to register.

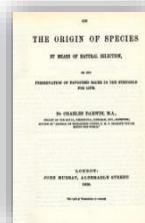
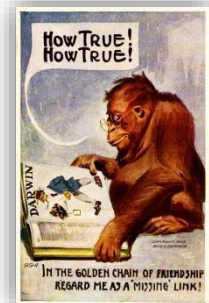
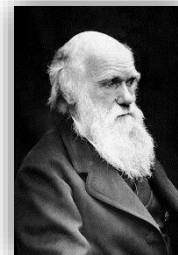
We will meet from 4:30-5:45pm on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons

Description: The Darwin Seminar is led by Parks Family Professor of Science Education William F. McComas (mccomas@uark.edu) who will be joined by a large team of professors from a variety of specialization across campus who together bring a rich mix of perspectives designed to examine evolution from its history to Charles Darwin's voyage on the *H.M.S. Beagle* to the Scopes Trial to continuing aftershocks in science classrooms even now. Darwin and the ideas he supported have profound relevance across the fields of biology, history, literature, sociology and beyond, yet many misunderstand or even reject evolution. This course models the principle that the most complete view of any discovery, event or person is best achieved through an interdisciplinary perspective. Evolution is a superb example of a topic that demands such an integrated consideration.

Darwin Course Faculty scheduled: William McComas (Science Education); Vince Chadick (Law); Erica Westerman (Biology); Daniel Kennefick (Physics); Kristen Figgins (English); Barry Ward (Philosophy); Richard Sonn (History), J. Michael Plavcan, Claire Terhune and Lucas Delezene (Anthropology)

The Darwin Seminar will address the following topics:

- Charles Darwin and His Place in Intellectual History
- The History of Evolutionary Thought
- What is Evolution as Darwin Conceptualized It?
- Darwin and the Voyage of the Beagle
- Darwin: From Natural History to Natural Science
- The Philosophy of Science and Evolution's Place in It
- Science and Pseudoscience
- Darwin's Problem: The Age of the Earth
- Human Evolution: What Know Now
- The Long Shadow of Scopes: Monkey, Media & Moral Majority
- The Evolution of Dayton Tennessee: Marketing Creationism
- Evolution and the Law: Scopes and Beyond
- Evolution and the Law: Little Rock and Dover
- Social Darwinism, Eugenics and Other Abuses of Evolution
- Darwin & Evolution: Intersecting with Literature
- Evolution, Science and Religion
- The Science of Evolution since the Mid-20th Century
- Evolution: Implications in and for the Modern World
- Evolution and Education



The class features lecture-discussion instruction accompanied using media resources and readings for each topic. There will be assessments of content along with an individual research project of a topic chosen by each student from a list provided by the instructional team. Students should check with an adviser to determine how this class might fit into their programs of study and/or to determine how this course meets honors requirements in your program.