

Darwin and Darwinisms

HISC 173/273

UCSD Winter 2017

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Charles Darwin has done more than any other naturalist to shape our larger scientific view of the biological and human worlds. His name has become synonymous with the most basic mechanisms of evolution, and his works are still consulted by biologists and philosophers of biology for fresh scientific insights. Outside the scientific community, he is widely considered either dangerous or liberating, blamed for the ultimate disenchantment of the world or credited with the final freeing of human intelligence from religious dogma. The excesses of both National Socialism and Stalinism have been laid at his door. At times his followers have tried to make his insights into a new secular, humanistic religion. This class will dig deep into Darwin's life, work and legacy, examining how a retiring, sickly, modest, and incredibly hard-working nineteenth-century bourgeois family man irrevocably changed the way we view ourselves and our world.

This course is a history of science colloquium for graduate and undergraduate students. This means lots of reading and lots of discussion. Attendance is mandatory, as is participation. The class will be graded on a combination of discussion participation (35%) and written work (65%). For undergraduates, the latter will take the form of a series of reading responses, which students will do every week between second and ninth weeks, plus an introduction and conclusion, the whole to be turned in to me at the end of the class. Graduate students will undertake a research paper, in consultation with me, for which purpose their readings for the class may be adjusted somewhat.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

FIRST WEEK: GENESIS AND EVOLUTION

Book of Genesis, excerpts, to be read in class

SECOND WEEK: POPULATION PRESSURE

Adam Smith: *The Wealth of Nations*, Vol. I, Chapter 8

<http://www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smWN3.html>

Thomas Robert Malthus: *Essay on the Principle of Population*, Chs I & II

<http://www.econlib.org/library/Malthus/malPop1.html>

THIRD WEEK: CHARLES DARWIN AND ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE

Graduates:

James Moore and Adrian Desmond: *Darwin: the Life of a Tormented Evolutionist*, Norton & Co., 1994

Undergraduates:

Darwin biography on website at Christ's College

http://darwin200.christs.cam.ac.uk/pages/index.php?page_id=b

Everyone:

Charles Smith: *Capsule Biography of Alfred Russell Wallace*

<http://people.wku.edu/charles.smith/wallace/BIOG.htm>

Alfred Russell Wallace (1858) 'On the tendency of varieties to depart indefinitely from the original type'

<http://books.google.com/books?id=ikgPAAAYAAJ&pg=RA1-PA26#v=onepage&q&f=false>

FOURTH WEEK: ORIGIN OF SPECIES I

Charles Darwin (1859) *On the Origin of Species*, chapters. 1-5

<http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?itemID=F373&viewtype=text&pageseq=1>

FIFTH WEEK: THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES II

Charles Darwin *Origin of Species*, chapters 6-8, 13, 14

<http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?itemID=F373&viewtype=text&pageseq=1>

SIXTH WEEK: THE DESCENT OF MAN

Undergraduates, Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man*, Chapter 7

<http://literature.org/authors/darwin-charles/the-descent-of-man/chapter-07.html>

Graduates: Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man*, part I, or another of his major texts.

SEVENTH WEEK: DARWIN IN CHINA, RUSSIA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Undergraduates, pick two out of three:

Andrew F. Jones, (2011) *Developmental Fairytales*, Harvard University Press, pp. 28-62

Marwa Elshakry, (2014) *Reading Darwin in Arabic, 1860-1950*. Chicago, US: University of Chicago Press, pp. 261-305

Daniel P. Todes, (1987) "Darwin's Malthusian Metaphor and Russian Evolutionary Thought, 1859 – 1917," *Isis*, Vol. 78, No. 4, pp. 537-551

EIGHTH WEEK: WAR, PEACE, AND POLITICS

Petr Kropotkin, (1902) *Mutual Aid*, introduction and Ch. 3.

<http://www.calresco.org/texts/mutaid.htm>

Friedrich von Bernhardi (1914) Introduction, and "The Right to Make War' from *Germany and the Next War*, pp. 9-37

<https://archive.org/details/cu31924031165206>

Julian Huxley (1946) "UNESCO: its purpose and philosophy" pp. 1-21

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0006/000681/068197eo.pdf>

NINTH WEEK: SOCIOBIOLOGY AND ITS CRITICS

E. O. Wilson (1975) 'Man: from Sociobiology to Sociology' in *Sociobiology the New Synthesis*

https://teoriaevolutiva.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/edward_o-wilson_sociobiology_the_abridged_editbookos-org.pdf

The Sociobiology Study Group of Science for the People (1976)
'Sociobiology, another biological determinism' *Bioscience*

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1297246>

E.O. Wilson (1976) 'Academic vigilantism and the political significance
of sociobiology' *Bioscience*

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1297247>

TENTH WEEK: THE HUMAN JOURNEY