



Darwinian Misadventures In The Humanities

Author : Eugene Goodheart / **Category :** Social Science / **Total Pages :** 136 pages

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Summary : Free darwinian misadventures in the humanities pdf download - in recent decades the humanities have been in thrall to postmodern skepticism while darwinists brimming with confidence in the genuine progress they have made in the sciences of biology and psychology have set their sights on rescuing the humanities from the ravages of postmodernism in this volume eugene goodheart attacks the neo-darwinist approach to the arts and articulates a powerful defense of humanist criticism e o wilson the distinguished harvard biologist has spoken of converting philosophy into science substituting science for religion and formulating a biological theory of literature and the arts in consilience the unity of knowledge goodheart demonstrates that wilson s efforts and those of his colleagues richard dawkins steven pinker and daniel dennett among others have resulted in scientism rather than science if for example dawkins had contented himself in the selfish gene with the claim that darwinism had made worthless other answers to the question of how we have evolved he would have given offense only to creationists but questions of meaning and purpose are of another order contemporary darwinist critiques err in assuming that art and traditional criticism aspire to truths that can be codified in terms of scientific laws if this were so we would have to regard the speculations of plato aristotle augustine montaigne shakespeare and rousseau as worthless goodheart exposes the philistinism of literary darwinism the bad faith and inverted fundamentalism of the darwinian approach to religion and the dangers of the effort to create a darwinian ethical system taken together goodheart s arguments show that in moving beyond their area of competence the neo -darwinists commit an ideology not a science

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