

# The Origin of Species: Evidence from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century

## BIO 285R

Dr. Eloise Carter  
Dr. William H. Murdy  
Dr. Ina Jane Wundram

In this seminar participants will discuss Darwin's arguments and evidence for evolution and natural selection as presented in "The Origin" published in 1859. To see how Darwin's work fares in the light of 20<sup>th</sup> century scientific evidence, we will explore recent research presented in "Darwin's Ghost: The Origin of Species Updated" by Steve Jones, 2000. Students will select one chapter to present for discussion. A research paper will be required. Seminar will meet one day a week.

Jan.	18 <sup>th</sup>	Who was Charles Darwin? The Voyage of the Beagle	Introduction
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Between the Beagle and the Origin	
	25 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup>	Reconciliation Symposium	
Feb.	1 <sup>st</sup>	Variation Under Domestication	Chapter I
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Meet with Dr. Murdy	
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Variation Under Nature; Struggle for Existence	Chapters II, III
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Natural Selection; Laws of Variation	Chapter IV Chapter V
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Fossil Field Trip: A trip back in time through North Georgia 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	
Mar.	1 <sup>st</sup>	Difficulties on Theory; Miscellaneous Objections to the Theory	Chapter VI Chapter VII
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Instinct	Chapter VIII
	15 <sup>th</sup>	SPRING BREAK	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Hybridism	Chapter IX

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	29 <sup>th</sup>	On the Imperfections of the Geological Record; on the Geological Succession of Organic Beings	Chapters X, XI
April	5 <sup>th</sup>	Geographical Distribution	Chapters XII, XIII
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Mutual Affinities of Organic Beings: Morphology: Embryology: Rudimentary Organs	Chapter XIV
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Recapitulation and Conclusion	Chapter XV
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Evaluations and Exam Preparations	

Final Exam: May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**Presentation and Discussion:** Each student will choose a chapter of *The Origin*. You will be responsible for providing a 10-15 minute synopsis of the ideas presented in this chapter in *The Origin* and *Darwin's Ghost*. You will be responsible for leading a discussion on this topic. In preparation for your session you will consult other resources. You should meet with Dr. Murdy or Dr. Carter as soon as possible and submit an outline of your presentation and questions for discussion. On February 8<sup>th</sup> Dr. Murdy will be available during class to assist you with your topic.

**Papers:** Each student will write an 8-10 page paper on a topic covered by their presentation. Students should develop their thesis using modern evidence and describing current controversies. At least 5 non-web references should be included. Bibliographical references should follow MLA or scientific format. *Papers will be due 2 weeks after the presentation for topics covered before spring break and 1 week after the presentation for topics covered after spring break.*

**Fossil Field Trip:** We will drive north and back through time to explore the natural history of Georgia and evidence for evolution revealed through fossils. Bring money for lunch and dinner. We will stop for BBQ at lunch and fast food on the way home. Dress in layers, with gloves, hats and sturdy shoes.

**Reconciliation Symposium:** Plan to attend the Reconciliation session of your choice. Of particular interest are:

Keynote Address: President Carter, 1/25, 8-9 p.m., Glenn Memorial  
Environmental Reconciliation, 1/26, 3:15-5:15 p.m., WHSCAB Auditorium  
Conflicts Between Science and Religion, 1/27, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Cox Hall  
Ballroom  
E.O. Wilson, 1/27, 11:45 - 12:45, WHSCAB Auditorium

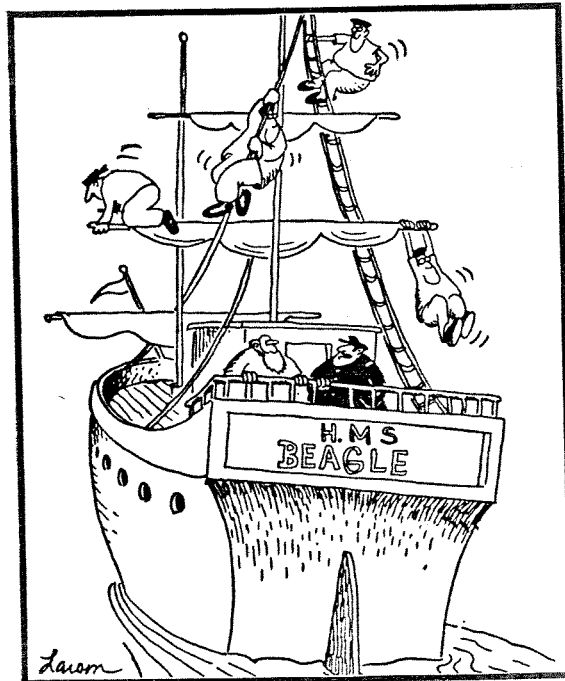
Each student will write a 1-2 page essay that includes the following:

Title of session and name of speaker  
Summary of the issues and opposing views  
Ways to reconcile views  
Application of session to Oxford, your community or your own life

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be an oral exam. Students will answer questions related to the readings and presentations. You will enjoy the opportunity to synthesize the information from the semester.

**Honor Code.** All examinations and work for credit in this course come under the regulations of the Honor Code. Your signature on your work attests to your upholding the Honor Code.

**Evaluations:** Students will be evaluated on their presentation, paper, contributions to discussion, participation in the field trip, final exam and other assignments made during the semester.



"Well, Mr. Darwin....Have you reached any conclusions, so far?"