

DARWIN & DARWINISM
PHILOSOPHY 6000
FALL 2007

Course Description: In 2009, we will celebrate the bicentennial of Darwin's birth and the sesquicentennial of his *On the Origin of Species*. There will undoubtedly be a tremendous amount of discussion regarding his life and works, so this seems an appropriate time to conduct a thoroughgoing discussion therein. Despite his renown, Darwin remains, at least popularly, far less read than he should be. Much of contemporary thought ascribes to him views or certainty that he lacked, and his popularity obscures some of his failings (e.g., his theory of heredity); nevertheless, Darwin's central ideas remain among the greatest successes in intellectual history. In this seminar, we will read the most important elements of the Darwinian corpus, as well as reflect upon the philosophical themes that it contains.

Professor: Dr. Fritz Allhoff
3006 Moore Hall; Tuesday 4:00p-6:00p and by appointment
fritz.allhoff@wmich.edu, 387-4503 (w)

Seminar: Tuesday , 6:00p-8:30p, Moore 3014

Texts: Charles Darwin, *The Autobiography of Charles Darwin: 1809-1882*, Nora Barlow (ed.) (0-393-31069)
Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* (0-674-63752-6)
Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man* (1-57392-176-9)
Charles Darwin, *The Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication*, Volume 1 (0-8018-5866-6)
Charles Darwin, *The Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication*, Volume 2 (0-8018-5867-4)
John Alexander Moore, *Readings in Heredity and Development* (0-19-501492-8)
Jonathan Hodge and Gregory Radick (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Darwin* (0-521-77730-5)
Optional: Charles Darwin, *The Voyage of the Beagle* (0-375-75680-9)
Optional: Charles Darwin, *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals* (1-43461-466-2)
Optional: David L. Hull (ed.), *Darwin and His Critics* (0-226-36046-6)

Additional readings may be scanned and posted on our gmail account (www.gmail.com). Login is darwinseminar and password is wmuphilgrad.

Note: There are many different versions of Darwin's texts. Please get *exactly* the ones with the ISBN#s indicated above in parentheses so that we can all share the same pagination. Many of these are available quite inexpensively used on Amazon.com; just enter the ISBN# and you will see availability. All the books that are in print will be available at the WMU Bookstore. Out of print books can be tracked down online; if they are expensive, you might consider sharing, copying, scanning, etc.

Grading:	Attendance/participation	10%
	Notes on readings	10%
	Presentations	20%
	Annotated research bibliography	10%
	Research paper (6000-9000 words)	50%

Attendance/Participation: You are required to attend each seminar and to participate. If you miss a seminar, you may turn in a 1500-word reaction to the assigned readings (half exegetical, half critical) at the beginning of the following seminar to avoid a zero for the previous week. You may do this, at most, two times.

Notes on readings: At the end of the course, you will turn in your notes from readings; these may be typed or hand-written. Notes should cover relevant textual citations, reactions to the work, questions or ideas that derive from it, and so on. The notes may be typed or hand-written, and format is otherwise flexible. I expect that submitted notes might be somewhere in the vicinity of 50 pages.

Presentations: This will very much be a student-led seminar with some number of students being responsible for presentations each week. I expect *very good* preparation for these presentations, which we will talk more about. In particular, presentations should *not* simply trace through the text with a bunch of quotations (though these should be there as appropriate), but should rather seek to explicate the project in some integrative manner and to provide substantive questions for discussion. PowerPoint is strongly encouraged. Presenters are responsible for scanning and uploading rare/expensive texts to the gmail account *two weeks before* their presentations; put the date of the corresponding seminar in the subject line of the email.

Annotated research bibliography: Before writing your research paper, you will compile a research bibliography which will support the research for that project. There should be at least twenty sources in this bibliography, at least half of which should be from after 2000. For each source, you should provide full bibliographic information as well as a 100-word précis. If you are going to submit your research paper on December 14 (see below), then your annotated bibliography is due on December 4. If you are going to submit your research paper on January 7, then your annotated bibliography is due on December 14. Comments will be offered on the bibliography as will be useful for developing the research paper.

Research paper: Students will incorporate the annotated research bibliography into a research paper, which will be in the 6000-9000 word range. My preference would be for something approximately in the middle of this range as I suspect shorter papers will lack some of the depth of longer ones and that longer ones will lack some of the focus of more intermediate ones. Nevertheless, you have some flexibility on this length. If you want a grade by the end of the semester, then your paper is due to my mailbox (not by email) on Friday, December 14 at noon. It is quite possible that, for many of these papers, I will encourage (optional) rewrites in order to achieve a higher grade, conference potential, or publication potential. Rewrites will then be due by January 7 at noon. However, I encourage you to take time over winter break to write your paper, rather than to try to do it in the middle of semester when we are still covering substantive material. In this event, your first submission will be do January 7 at noon. If I want to encourage a rewrite on a January submission, we will coordinate further deadlines together.

Statement on Academic Honesty: You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Graduate Catalog (pp. 25-27) that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.

TENTATIVE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

1	9/4	Introduction to Darwin & <i>Origin</i>	Darwin, <i>Autobiography</i> Phillip Sloan, "The Making of a Philosophical Naturalist" (CCD)
2	9/11	<i>Origin</i>	Darwin, <i>Origin</i> , Chs. I-III, V
3	9/18	<i>Origin</i> (cont.)	Darwin, <i>Origin</i> , Chs. IV, VI
4	9/25	<i>Origin</i> (cont.)	Darwin, <i>Origin</i> , Chs. VII-X
5	10/2	<i>Origin</i> (cont.)	Darwin, <i>Origin</i> , Chs. XI-XIV
6	10/9	Critical Response	Excerpts from Hull, TBA (S) ¹ <i>Origin</i> (6 th ed.), Ch. VII (S)
7	10/16	<i>Origin</i> : Structure and Method	Ernst Mayr, preface to <i>Origin</i> Ken Waters, "The Arguments in the <i>Origin of Species</i> " (CCD) Jim Lennox, "Darwinian Thought Experiments: A Function for Just-So Stories" (S)
8	(10/23)	<i>Descent</i> : Mind and Ethics <i>No Class: 1500-word reaction papers due; 500 words on each of the three essays.</i>	Robert Richards, "Darwin on Mind, Morals, and Emotions" (CCD) Fritz Allhoff, "Evolutionary Ethics from Darwin to Moore" (S) Alex Rosenberg, "Darwinism in Moral Philosophy and Social Theory" (CCD)
9	10/30	Human Descent	Darwin, <i>Descent</i> , Chs. I-III
10	11/6	Human Descent	Darwin, <i>Descent</i> , Chs. IV-V
11	11/13	Sexual Selection	Darwin, <i>Descent</i> , Chs. VIII, XXI Re-read <i>Origin</i> , Ch. IV
12	11/20	Thanksgiving Week (no class) <i>No Class: 1500-word reaction papers due; 500 words on each of the three essays.</i>	Elliott Sober, "Metaphysical and Epistemological Issues in Modern Darwinian Theory" (CCD) Kim Sterelny, "Darwinian Concepts in the Philosophy of Mind" (CCD) Michael Ruse, "Belief in God in a Darwinian Age" (CCD)
13	11/27	Darwin's Philosophy of Science and <i>Variation</i> (S)	John Herschel, excerpts from <i>Preliminary Discourse on the Study of Natural Philosophy</i> Darwin, <i>The Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication</i> , Introduction, XIII, XXVII, XXVIII
14	12/4	Pangensis	Darwin, <i>Variation</i> , XXVII, XXVIII Darwin and Galton exchange (from Moore)

¹ (S) designates that these readings will be scanned and uploaded to the gmail account by whomever is doing the corresponding presentations (if they have not already been done so by the professor).