

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF *ORIGIN OF SPECIES*

PHILOSOPHY 6000

FALL 2009

Course Description: In 2009, we celebrate the bicentennial of Darwin's birth (February 12) and the sesquicentennial of the publication of *On the Origin of Species* (November 24). This year portends tremendous amount of discussion regarding his life and works, and is therefore a brilliant opportunity to conduct a thoroughgoing discussion therein. Despite his renown, Darwin remains, at least popularly, far less read than he should be. Much of public 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 embark on a sustained investigation of his most influential work, *On the Origin of Species*. We will read the text in its entirety, along with the reactions of Darwin's most pointed critics and contemporary scholarship.

Professor: Dr. Fritz Allhoff
3006 Moore Hall; Tuesday 1:00p-3:00p and by appointment
fritz.allhoff@wmich.edu, 387-4503 (w)

Seminar: Tuesday, 3:00p-5:30p, 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)
Michael Ruse and Robert J. Richards (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Origin of Species* (978-0-521-69129-1)

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. They have also been requested at the WMU bookstore.

Grading:	Attendance/participation	10%
	Presentations	20%
	Annotated research bibliography (Week 11)	10%
	Notes on readings (Week 14)	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 required. Presenters are responsible for scanning and uploading supplementary readings 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. 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) by Friday at 1200p of exam week. 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 the first day of class for spring semester. 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 due on that first day of class. If I want to encourage a rewrite on a later 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	9/8	Introduction to Darwin & <i>Origin</i>	Darwin, <i>Autobiography</i>
2	9/15	<i>Origin</i>	Darwin, <i>Origin</i> , I-II
3	9/22	<i>Origin</i> (cont.)	Darwin, <i>Origin</i> , Chs. III-V
4	9/29	<i>Origin</i> (cont.)	Darwin, <i>Origin</i> , Chs. VI-IX
5a	10/6	<i>Origin</i> (cont.)	Darwin, <i>Origin</i> , Chs. X-XI
5b	10/10*	<i>Origin</i> (cont.)	Darwin, <i>Origin</i> , Chs. XI-XV
6	10/13	Critical Response	Fleeming Jenkin St. George Mivart, The Genesis of Species, Ch. II Darwin, Origin (6th ed.), Ch. VII
7	10/20	No Class	
8	10/27	<i>Origin</i> : Structure and Method <i>No Class: 2000-word reaction papers due; 1000 words on each essay.</i>	Ken Waters, "The Arguments in the <i>Origin of Species</i> " Jim Lennox, " Darwinian Thought Experiments: A Function for Just-So Stories "
9	11/3	<i>Cambridge Companion</i>	Introduction, Ruse, Largent, Olby
10	11/10	<i>Cambridge Companion</i>	Richards, Sloan, Kohn
11	11/14*	<i>Cambridge Companion</i> Annotated Research Bibliography Due	Lustig, Herbert & Norman, Bowler
12	11/24	<i>Cambridge Companion</i> <i>No Class: 2250-word reaction papers due; 750 words on each essay.</i> <i>Origin</i> Published November 24, 1859	Richards, Nyhart, Smocovitis
13	12/1	<i>Cambridge Companion</i>	Depew, Brooke, Beer
14	12/8	<i>Cambridge Companion</i> Reading Notes Due	Beck, Lewens, Kohler & Kohler
15		Research Paper Due Friday at 1200p	