

Darwin's Legacy: (R)evolutionary Theory's Cultural Impact

ARLT 100

Spring 2010

Meets in WPH 206, Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 – 10:50 a.m.

Dr. Amy R. Parish

Depts. of Anthropology and Gender Studies

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150 years after Darwin first published his theory of evolution, his ideas remain a source of passionate controversy - above all when those ideas are applied to humans and human behavior. This course will explore evolutionary theory's impact on political, philosophical, religious and literary thought through a critical examination of a broad spectrum of related works (including both scientific and nonscientific texts as well as works of fiction and film). We will study works reflecting traditions as diverse as social Darwinism, creationism, biological determinism and the animal rights movement. Equally important, during this course we will each grapple with our personal relationship to evolutionary theory's philosophical challenges. The texts we read will be used as a basis for working through issues such as the significance of humanity's purported demotion to the animal kingdom and whether "human nature" really exists.

Readings:

Darwin (3rd Edition), Appelman

The Beak of the Finch, Jonathon Weiner

Botany of Desire, Michael Pollan

The Mating Mind, G. Miller

Mother Nature, Sarah Hrdy

Next of Kin, Roger Fouts

The Immense Journey, Loren Eiseley

A Sand County Almanac, Leopold

Assorted Articles

Assessment

Students will write one paper and complete a midterm and final examination. You will also keep a journal in which you analyze the portrayal of human behavior in literature, film, television, and print-media using a variety of perspectives, including an evolutionary perspective. There will be two in-class writing assignments.

Your final grade will be calculated in the following proportions:

Mid-term: 25%

Final: 25%

Paper: 20%

Journal: 20%

In-class writing assignments: 10%

Course Requirements and Policies:

The assigned readings complement, rather than replace the class lectures. Therefore, attendance is expected at class lectures each week. You are allowed two excused absences (however, 100% attendance is strongly recommended). Each additional absence will result in a 5% reduction in your grade. Please arrive for class on time. Two late arrivals (and/or early departures) will be counted as one absence. The readings are an extremely important component of the course. It will be impossible to do well without having read the assigned reading thoroughly. Please be sure to keep up with the reading and have it done by the beginning of the week in which it has been assigned. The lectures provide the background information that you will use to interpret and think critically about the readings.

Examinations can only be rescheduled in the case of extreme illness or emergency. Documentation will be required for a make-up exam. The make-up exam will ask different questions and may be in a different format. Any requests to have an exam question re-graded must be submitted in writing with thorough explication within one week of the return of the exams/assignments.

Writing assignment deadlines are firm. Please allow yourself enough time to compensate for any problems that would otherwise delay submission of your work. No work will be accepted after the due date. Assignments must be turned in at the start of class on the due date.

It is required that all university policies relating to academic honesty and integrity be followed. Please familiarize yourself with rules of academic integrity and student conduct as outlined in SCampus. Please also read the material at these two links:

www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/forms/tio.pdf

www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/forms/tig.pdf

Students with documented disabilities must report them to the professor at least two weeks before any scheduled exam in order to make alternative testing arrangements. It is best to discuss this at the beginning of term.

This syllabus is subject to change and updates will be posted on Blackboard.

Tuesday 1/12	Introduction
Thursday 1/14	Evolutionary Theory: Natural Selection
Reading	Appelman Part 1, 2 and 3 and pp. 65 -85 Weiner Chapters 1 - 4
Tuesday 1/19	Evolutionary Theory: Natural Selection continued
Thursday 1/21	Library Session (meet in Leavey Learning Room A)
Reading	Weiner Chapters 5 - 7 Appelman pp. 255 - 287 Article “Why Should Students Learn Evolution” Article “Hooke, Fossils, and the Anti-Evolutionists” Article “Darwin’s Influence on Modern Thought” Web Link: Darwin – Natural History Museum Article “Evolution in Action” Web Link: “Aloha-Spider Style”
Tuesday 1/26	Evolution: Great Transformations
Thursday 1/28	What is a Species
Note:	1/30 last day to drop without “W” or to change P/NP option
Reading	Weiner 9 -12 Pollan Intro and Chapter 1 Appelman 95 - 158
Note:	1/ 29: last day to drop without a “W” or change P/NP option
Tuesday 2/2	Evolutionary Theory: Sexual Selection (Male-Male Competition)
Thursday 2/4	Evolutionary Theory: Sexual Selection (Female Choice)
Reading	Miller Chapters 1 – 6
Tuesday 2/9	Why Sex
Thursday 2/11	Darwinopoly
Reading	Miller Chapters 7 -11
Tuesday 2/16	Thoughts on the Human Animal: Lecture by Jonathan Kirsch
Thursday 2/18	First In-Class Writing Assignment
Reading	Pollan Chapter 2 and 3

Tuesday 2/23 Thursday 2/25 Reading	Evolutionary Theory: Revised Sexual Selection Woman The Inside Story Hrdy Chapters 1 - 7
Tuesday 3/2 Thursday 3/4 Reading	Adding to Darwin's Legacy: Genetic Traits Midterm Pollan Chapter 4 and Epilogue Hrdy Chapters 8 - 14
Tuesday 3/9 Thursday 3/11 Reading	American Approaches to Evolution and Race: Guest Lecture by Dr. Varun Soni TBA Appelman Part VIII Article "The Perimeter of Ignorance" Article "The Growth of Evolutionary Science" Article "15 Answers to Creationist Nonsense" Article "The Illusion of Design"
Tuesday 3/16 Thursday 3/18	Spring Break: No classes Spring Break: No classes
Tuesday 3/23 Thursday 3/25 Reading	Bonobo Social and Sexual Behavior Chimpanzee Politics Fouts Part 1 and 2
Tuesday 3/30 Thursday 4/1 Reading	Humanity's Relationship to Nature Humanity's Relationship to Nature continued Papers due at start of lecture 4/1 Appelman Part IX Leopold Foreword and Part I Weiner Chapter 20
Tuesday 4/6 Thursday 4/8 Note: Reading	Human Evolution The Evolutionary Arms Race Friday 4/9 Last Day to Drop with "W" Fouts Part 3 Leopold Part III

Tuesday 4/13 Cooperation
 Thursday 4/15 Cooperation
 Reading Appleman Part VI
 Eiseley pp 1 - 126

Tuesday 4/20 Extinction
 Thursday 4/22 **Second In-Class Writing Assignment**
 Reading Weiner Chapter 18
 Eiseley pages 127 – end

Tuesday 4/27 The Human Animal
 Thursday 4/29 The Human Animal
 Reading Hrdy Chapters 15 -22

Tuesday 5/11 Final Exam 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Jan 19 (Tues) 7 p.m. Visions and Voices Event:
 Rock n Roll Jihad: A Muslim Rock Star's Revolution for Peace
<http://web-app.usc.edu/ws/eo2/calendar/32/event/871484>
 RSVP

Jan 28 (Thurs) 7 p.m. L.A. Library ALOUD Series
 An Evening with Elizabeth Kostova
<http://www.lfla.org/event-detail/350/AN-EVENING-WITH-ELIZABETH-KOSTOVA>
 RSVP

Feb 2 (Tues) 7 p.m. College Commons Event
 Arts, Humanities, and Economic Thought-A Solo Performance Piece
<http://college.usc.edu/tcc-february-2010/>

Feb 8 (Mon) 7 p.m. L.A. Library ALOUD Series
 Jesus Was a Liberal
<http://www.lfla.org/event-detail/353/Scotty-McLennan>
 RSVP

Feb 17 (Wed) 7 p.m. L.A. Library ALOUD Series
The Great Equations: Breakthroughs in Science from Pythagoras to Heisenberg
<http://www.lfla.org/event-detail/356/Robert-P-Crease>
RSVP

Mar 5 (Fri) L.A. Natural History Museum First Friday Series
Title TBA
RSVP/purchase ticket

April 6 (Tues) 4 p.m. College Commons Event
Order, Wonder, Things
<http://college.usc.edu/tcc-april-2010/>
RSVP

April 6 (Tues) 5 p.m. Global Health Institute Event
Follow the Money: Covering the Surge of Funds for HIV/AIDS
<http://web-app.usc.edu/ws/eo2/calendar/32/event/870098>
RSVP

April 7 (Wed) 5 p.m. Global Health Institute Event
Follow the Money: Covering the Surge of Funds for HIV/AIDS
<http://web-app.usc.edu/ws/eo2/calendar/32/event/870098>
RSVP

April 19 (Mon) 4 p.m. College Commons Event
Marking Time: On Time and Place in Poetry and Film
<http://college.usc.edu/tcc-april-2010/>
RSVP

April 20 (Tues) 5:30 College Commons Event
The Poetry of California/The Beauty of the World: A Tribute to Carol Muske-Dukes,
Poet-Laureate of California
<http://college.usc.edu/tcc-april-2010/>
RSVP