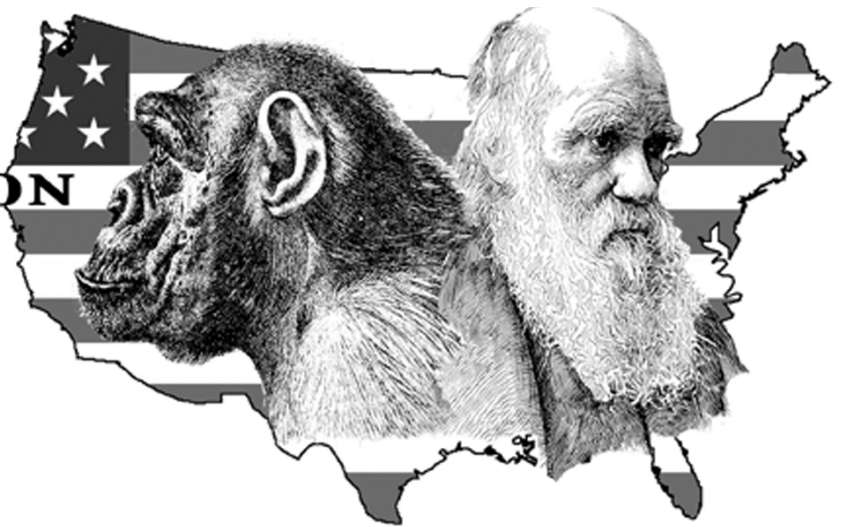


THE CONTROVERSY OVER EVOLUTION CREATION & INTELLIGENT DESIGN



Winter Quarter 20062

Dr. Robert Rothman

Office: 08-1342
Phone: 475-5215
E-Mail: rhrsbi
web site: www.rit.edu/~rhrsbi

Trial and Error: The American Controversy over Creation and Evolution 3rd ed
Edward J. Larson. Oxford University Press

Natural Theology
William Paley. Oxford University Press

How to Read Darwin
Mark Ridley. WW Norton

Texts *Evolution: The History of an Idea* 3rd ed.
Peter J. Bowler. University of California Press

The Origin of Species
Charles Darwin. Barnes and Noble Books

Of Pandas and People: The Central Question of Biological Origins 2nd ed
Percival Davis and Dean H. Kenyon. Foundation for Thought and Ethics.

Evolution vs Creationism: An Introduction
Eugenie C. Scott. University of California Press

Important Dates

21 Dec Exam 1
2 Feb Exam 2
Finals Week Exam 3

Final Grades

Exam 1 = 200 points
Exam 2 = 200 points
Exam 3 = 200 points
Homework = 50 points
Participation = 50 points

Total = 700 points

Your final grade will consist of the three take-home midterm exams, homework and participation in class discussion.

I am always happy to discuss grades, but in fairness to all, no extra credit projects can be granted

Lecture Topics and Readings

I The Pre-Darwinian View of Nature

The first section looks at pre-evolutionary science and considers the types of questions in natural history, geology, and materialist philosophy that led to a questioning of accepted norms and paved the way for Darwin. A particular focus of this section will be the philosophy of Natural Theology, the endeavor in which one studied nature to find evidence of God's benevolence and to unravel God's plan of creation. Readings in this section include William Paley's 1802 classic *Natural Theology*, which outlined the tenets of Intelligent Design and which has been revived in the current evolution controversy, and *Evolution: The History of an Idea*.

- A Ideas About Nature Drawn From Genesis
- B The Age of the Earth and the Catastrophist/Uniformitarianist Debate in Geology
- C Newton, Descartes and Hume; Materialist Philosophy
- D God's Plan: The Great Chain of Being
- E Linnaeus and the Fall of the Great Chain
- F John Ray, William Paley, and the Argument from Design
- G Erasmus Darwin, Lamarck, and the Progression of Life

II Charles Darwin and the Theory of Evolution

The second section focuses on Darwin and *On the Origin of Species*. Topics include Darwin's Beagle voyage and observations that led him to question the stability of species. We also consider the reception of Darwin's theory in both the scientific and religious arenas. This section concludes with the Huxley/Wilberforce confrontation at the 1860 meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science that traditionally serves as the opening salvo in the evolution/creation controversy. Readings include selections from *On the Origin of Species*, *How to Read Darwin*, and *Evolution: The History of an Idea*.

- A The Voyage of the Beagle
- B Darwin: the Years In Hiding
- C Thomas Malthus and the Struggle For Existence
- D The Origin of *The Origin of Species*
- E Publication and Controversy

III Evolution in 20th Century America

The final section considers the course of the evolution/creation controversy in 20th and 21st century America. This section begins with the events that led to the 1925 Scopes trial, and its aftermath. In Scopes, victory was claimed by both sides, but in the years following, evolution was gradually removed from the textbooks. 1959's launch of Sputnik led to a revision of the science curriculum, which, in turn, led to the re-introduction of evolution as the core of biology. In the years following, creationism morphed into Creation Science and finally into Intelligent Design in response to a number of landmark court cases, most notably in Arkansas and Louisiana. The current climate of the debate today is dominated by last-year's Intelligent Design trial in Dover, Pa. In this section, lectures cover the court cases and the scientific arguments on both sides. Readings will include *Of Pandas and People*, *Evolution vs Creationism*, and *Trial and Error*, as well as selected scientific and creationist articles.

- A William Jennings Bryan, World War I, and the Foundations of Christian Fundamentalism
- B The Scopes Trial and its Aftermath
- C Sputnik and the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study
- D Epperson V Arkansas and the Collapse of Anti-Evolution Laws
- E The Rise of Scientific Creationism
- F Laws for the Balanced Treatment of Evolution Science and Creation Science
- G Mclean V Arkansas, Edwards V Aguillard and the Fall of Scientific Creationism
- H Intelligent Design and the Discovery Institute
- I Dover and Beyond
- J Science, Religion, and Politics