



Charles Darwin's home Down House near London: (left to right) the sand walk, greenhouse, and manor house

Basis of Evolution Syllabus

Page last modified: 8/15/06

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Fall 2006

PROFESSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Phone	972.883.2480	((last resort contact))
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Office Location	FN 3.308A	
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Office Hours	Monday/Thursday mornings / Wednesday all day	
Other Information	I monitor WebCT regularly	

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions	None
Course Description Objectives	<p><i>Basis of Evolution</i> provides wide-ranging discussions of the unifying theory of the origin and modification through time of all organisms. Pertinent history, the fossil record, evolution as concerns the human experience, processes and mechanisms, and a look at the future are major topics. We will engage in discussions of natural and sexual selection, paleontology, history, evolutionary psychology, and philosophy rather than discussions of genetics or cellular biology. Many topical, engaging, and controversial issues will be encountered.</p> <p><i>Basis of Evolution</i> is a WebCT-assisted course. Active participation is required in order to make a top grade. Class meets occasionally at times when we can all get together. Attending these meetings is highly recommended.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to participate in field activities. Those students who cannot get away for the weekend will be offered an alternative project to be completed in lieu of the trip. Required field tips forms will be provided.</p>
Methodology	<p>Study evolutionary theory in the classroom utilizing multiple tools including published research, manipulatives (including numerous skulls), and computer animations. Two field trips are planned. We will continuously reinforce learning in the classroom and the field via the Japanese method of lesson study. Students will present their research at the end of the course.</p> <p>All projects will respect teacher's prior knowledge and perspectives, be learner-centered, and be products constructed by a group. The professor in this course will function as a coach. There will be no lectures longer than fifteen minutes. All lectures will be reinforced with practical applications. An active online discussion board on WebCT will be maintained.</p>
Activities	<p>Each class is designed as an encounter with underpinnings of evolutionary theory.</p> <p>Students will produce numerous written overviews of various facets of evolutionary theory via the topic of the week on WebCT.</p> <p>Topics of the week are presented on WebCT each Thursday at 0600 and must be turned in on TurnItIn.com no later than midnight Saturday. Each topic requires a sensational 500 word abstract (see details below).</p> <p>Exam 1 and Exam 2 are to be completed in class and are comprehensive. The exams include various dead things, skulls, all sorts of items.</p>
Learning Outcomes	<p>Students will be conversant in evolutionary theory and will be able to fluently and correctly discuss operant mechanisms.</p> <p>Students will</p>
Required Texts & Materials Provided	<p>(check at Half Price Books or on Amazon)</p> <p>Dawkins, R., 1976, <i>The Selfish Gene</i>, Oxford University Press Miller, G., 2000, <i>The Mating Mind</i>, Doubleday Ridley, M., 1993, <i>The Red Queen</i>, Penguin</p>

	Ridley, M., 1996, <i>The Origins of Virtue</i> , Penguin (free download) Darwin, C., 1859, On the Origin of Species
Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials	Linked on WebCT (actively updated)

ASSIGNMENTS & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

[Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates]

Class notes, readings from assigned books, and pertinent web sites for each week are linked below. You may need to look up some terminology in the notes ([Glossary of Terms](#)). There are several good web sources for this task. You might also want to augment the notes with online sites and post the URLs on the WebCT discussion board. Remember to stick with reputable sites such as those produced by museums, universities, and the like.

Week of	Topic	Assigned Readings	
Aug 23	Charles Darwin, travels, discoveries, ideas WebCT topic of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	BBC PBS Definition (follow the <i>Next Topic</i> links)	Darwin
Aug 30	The fossil record, phylogeny and systematics WebCT topic of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	Evolution	
Sep 6	Natural selection, micro- and macroevolution, speciation WebCT topic of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	Microevolution (follow the <i>Next Topic</i> links) Macroevolution (follow the <i>Next Topic</i> links) Speciation (follow the <i>Next Topic</i> links) PBS	
Sep 13	Sexual selection WebCT topic of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	Mechanisms (follow the <i>Next Topic</i> links) PBS PBS Sex Dr. Tatiana review	Miller
Sep20	Patterns of evolution, form and function WebCT topic of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday Exam 1 in class	PBS Patterns Cladistics Patterns (follow the <i>Next Topic</i> links)	
Sep 27	Pace, diversity, complexity, cooperation WebCT topic of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	Berkeley (follow links) Cooperation (work through these scenarios)	
Oct 4	Class will be held in Big Bend over the weekend for those who can go. The subjects include evolution of dinosaurs.	Taphonomy Theropods (just for fun) Airlift video (LARGE QuickTime file)	
Oct 11	Evolution of intelligence, evolution of language WebCT topic of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	Intelligence (pdf)	
Oct 18	Nature of science, <i>Selfish Gene</i> and other Dawkins ideas		Dawkins
Oct 25	Island biogeography WebCT topic of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday Exam 2 in class	Evolution Suitcase Berkeley Case and Cody Hawaii (read article)	
Oc 28-29	Class will be held in Galveston for those who can come.		
Nov 1	Red Queen WebCT topic of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	PBS	Ridley
Nov 8	Primate/Human evolution WebCT topic of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	BBC	
Nov 15	Memes WebCT topic of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	Memes	
Nov 22	Origins of Virtue		Ridley
Nov 29	Presentations of student research. Discussions.		

ABSTRACTS**Concept**

Abstracts are difficult to write. They must be seriously concise. Each word should be weighed for effectiveness.

Format

Each abstract will focus on current research dealing with the topic of the week. The length is exactly 500 words as determined by "Word Count" in MS Word. The count includes just the body of the text. Your name, the title, and references are not counted.

Submitting your abstracts to TurnItIn

Any abstract not uploaded to TurnItIn and not uploaded by the cutoff will be considered as not turned in. No credit will be awarded.

Go to: www.turnitin.com

Follow the directions

For class id enter: **xxxx**

For "Enrollment Password" enter: **xxxx** (case sensitive)

Upload your paper

Turn in a paper copy to your professor.

COURSE POLICIES**Grading (credit)**

Abstracts: 200 points (mostly short answer with a few multiple choice)

Exam 1: 100 points

Exam 2: 150 points (comprehensive)

WebCT discussion section participation: 30 points (for a minimum of 30 substantive posts over the course of the semester)

Make-up Exams

None without prior approval of instructor

Extra Credit

None

Late Work

Accepted only with written excuse

Special Assignments

None

Class Attendance

Attendance required unless permission by instructor is obtained

Classroom Citizenship

As teachers and graduate students, I am sure you will behave

Field Trip Policies

No field trip.

Student Conduct and Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, A to Z Guide, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official

student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grades

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.