

Syllabus
Biology 496/596, History 395 - The Evolution of Darwin
Session1, Summer 2002
Kerry S. Kilburn, Ph.D.

OFFICE AND OFFICE HOURS:

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Office hours: TBA

TEXT (REQUIRED):

Desmond and Moore, 1991. *Darwin: The Life of a Tormented Evolutionist*

ADDITIONAL READINGS:

The Voyage of the Beagle: 2 chapters, TBA

(<http://www.literature.org/authors/darwin-charles/the-voyage-of-the-beagle/>)

The Origin of Species, 6/e: 2 chapters, TBA

(<http://www.literature.org/authors/darwin-charles/the-origin-of-species-6th-edition/>)

The Autobiography of Charles Darwin: excerpts to be provided

OTHER RESOURCES:

This course has a WWW site:

(http://www.lions.odu.edu/~kkilburn/evolv_darwin.htm).

It includes links to course materials (including the on-line readings listed above) and to ancillary resources relevant to the course. Specific reading assignments TBA.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This study abroad course will combine lectures and discussions with a two-week trip to England and Scotland to explore Charles Darwin as a man, a Victorian, and a scientist, with special emphasis on the people and ideas that informed the development of his theory of evolution. Students will be expected to read a Darwin biography and excerpts from Darwin's own writings before and during the trip. During our trip, we will visit sites important to Darwin and/or his colleagues. Special tours of such places as the British Museum of Natural History, the Linnaean Society, and the University Museum of Zoology at Cambridge will provide opportunities to meet with curators and archivists and to view significant historical artifacts, including specimens, manuscripts, and more.

EVALUATION:

Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on the following:

1. *Class participation*: This course includes class sessions both before and after the trip, as well as scheduled "briefings" and lecture/discussion sessions during the trip. Students are expected to attend all class meetings prepared to participate in discussions. Participation will be evaluated based on attendance and quality.

2. Prepared "briefings": Students will work individually or in pairs to prepare briefings for the class prior to each excursion of the trip. Briefings will include, minimally, a description of the site to be visited and a discussion of its significance to Darwin and the development of his ideas about evolution.

3. Trip journal: Students will keep a trip journal in which they record their responses to and reflections on each excursion. Each entry will be at least one hand-written page in length; journals will be checked periodically throughout the trip and collected for final grading upon our return. Grades will be assigned based on the thoughtfulness of the responses.

4. Final paper: After we return, students will prepare a final written paper (5-10 pages) in which they combine their responses to what they've seen and learned on the trip with materials from the readings and class sessions to reflect upon either (1) the importance of understanding history for understanding science or (2) the significance of historical collections for the development of both historical and scientific thought.

GRADING:

<u>Point distribution</u>	<u>Grading scale</u>
Participation: 125	90 - 100% = A
Briefings: 75	80 - 89.9% = B
Journals: 125	70 - 79.9% = C
<u>Final Paper</u> : 150	60 - 69.9% = D
Total = 475	below 60% = F

I do not grade on a curve, nor do I provide extra-credit assignments. Graduate students will complete the same assignments as do undergraduates, but will be held to more stringent standards.

I reserve the right to use plus/minus grades for students whose grades fall on grade borderlines, but such use will not result in a lower grade than indicated by the scale above (a 90% will result in an A, not an A-, e.g.).

In keeping with University regulations, grades of Incomplete (I) will be given only in exceptional circumstances beyond the student's control (such as illness or injury), and only after the student has completed 80% or more of the course requirements.

HONOR CODE:

By taking this course, you agree to adhere to Old Dominion University's honor code. Cheating on exams, plagiarism in written work, and failing to participate fully in group work will not be tolerated; infractions will be dealt with according to University policy.

EXPECTATIONS:

Because of the timing of the trip, students will find that they require a considerable amount of time to complete reading assignments before and during the trip and should manage their time accordingly. Texts should be brought along on the trip for consultation and for our lecture/discussions.

We will be spending a great deal of time together throughout the trip, including excursions and briefing sessions. I expect that each of us will make every effort to be a good traveling companion and classmate, with compromises shared equally and everyone looking out for each other. Any problems (before, during or after the trip) should be resolved among individuals if possible, and brought to my immediate attention if not.

Although we will be spending most of our time on course-related matters, students will have free time in both London and Edinburgh. I consider all students to be representatives of our institution and our country and that they will conduct themselves appropriately at all times.

IF YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS:

Please inform me as soon as possible of any special needs you might have.

CHANGES:

I reserve the right to make reasonable changes to the syllabus following timely notification of the students.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Pre-Trip Class Meetings	
5/13	Introduction, organization, reading assignments
5/14	Lecture & discussion 1: brief history of Western science
Tentative Trip Itinerary	
5/19	Arrive in London, city tour, welcome dinner
5/20	National Portrait Gallery; briefing 1; Darwin as a Victorian scientist (Lecture/discussion 2)
5/21	London scavenger hunt; briefing 2; Darwin and the history of evolutionary thought (Lecture/discussion 3); theatre night (Stones In His Pockets)
5/22	Linnean Society of London; briefing 3
5/23	Cambridge (Christ College, University Museum, Library)
5/24	Down House; first journal check
5/25	Travel to Edinburgh
5/26	Free day; briefing 4
5/27	University of Edinburgh; Darwin's contribution to Western science (Lecture/discussion 4)
5/28	Travel to London; briefing 5
5/29	British Museum/Darwin Centre; briefing 6
5/30	Free day; briefing 7
5/31	Kew Gardens; briefing 8
6/1	Westminster Abbey; second journal check; Darwin as a man of his times (Lecture/discussion 5)
6/2	Return to Norfolk
Post-Trip Class Meetings	
6/4	general debriefing; Reflections on the process of scientific inquiry (discussion 6); journals due
6/10	papers due