

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: EVOLUTION, RELIGION AND HUMAN NATURE
Status: Definitive
Code: **5514MEDCUL** (115010)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: St Helens College

Team	Leader
Clare Horrocks	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ5
Credit Value: 12.00
Total Delivered Hours: 45.00

Total Learning Hours: 120
Private Study: 75

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	21.000
Seminar	21.000
Tutorial	1.500

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	One Essay (2000 words) on Darwinism and religion or Social Darwinism. (Week 8)	50.0	
Exam	AS2	Seen exam on evolution and politics, Evolutionary Biology - its impact and critics. (Week 15)	50.0	1.50

Aims

To introduce the origins and development of evolutionary theory.
To examine debates between evolutionary theory and religion.
To examine the political implications and manipulations of evolutionary theory.
To critically evaluate the contemporary impact of Evolutionary Biology/Evolutionary

Psychology.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 To discuss the origins and development of evolutionary theory.
- 2 To consider religious discourses relating to evolution.
- 3 To discuss political implications and manipulations of evolutionary theory.
- 4 To analyse the impact of Evolutionary Biology/ Evolutionary Psychology on social science discourses.
- 5 To discuss and evaluate contemporary critics of Evolutionary Biology/ Evolutionary Psychology.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

One essay of 2000 words	1	2	3
EXAM	3	4	5

Outline Syllabus

The idea of evolution –

French philosophes; Lamarck.

Darwin's explanation/ the Darwinist agenda – instinct & intelligence.

Debates with religion (Huxley & Wilberforce).

Social darwinism –

'racial science'; Spencer; Galton & eugenics; links to intelligence testing; psychiatry.

Against Social darwinism –

Marx & drive theory.

Reviving Lamarck? –

Bergson, Freud, developmental psychology.

Evolution & political psychology in early 20th century –

Communism & lamarckianism.

Fascism & social darwinism.

Liberalism & learning theories.

Fundamental debates –

*nature-nurture debate.
The Creationist position.*

Evolutionary theory after 1945 -

*Ethology & pop-Ethology.
Sociobiology.
Evolutionary Biology/ Murray & IQ.*

Critiques of EB –

*Darwinism feminism.
Psychoanalysis (Freud/ Klein.
Evidence from human evolution and psychology of sex differences.*

Learning Activities

Lectures, seminars, student presentations, tutorials, group discussions, video presentations.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Brown, A.
Publishing Year	2000
Title	The Darwin Wars
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Touchstone
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Dawkins, R.
Publishing Year	2006
Title	The God Delusion
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Bantam
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Cornwell, J.
Publishing Year	2009

Title	Darwin's Angel
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Profile
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Crook, P.
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Darwin's Coat-Tails, Essays on Social Darwinism
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Peter Lang
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Hawkins, M.
Publishing Year	1997
Title	Social Darwinism in European and American Thought
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Cambridge UP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Lindquist, S.
Publishing Year	1997
Title	Exterminate all the Brutes
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Granta
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Rawson, C.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	God, Gulliver and Genocide
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	OUP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Ridley, M
Publishing Year	2003
Title	Nature via Nurture
Subtitle	

Edition	
Publisher	4th Estate
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Rose, S., Lewontin, R.C. and Kamin, L.
Publishing Year	1984
Title	Not in our Genes
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Penguin
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Ruse, M.
Publishing Year	2006
Title	The Evolution-Creation Struggle
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Harvard UP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Sterelny, K. and Turney, J. (ed.)
Publishing Year	2001
Title	Dawkins v. Gould
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Totem
ISBN	

Notes

This module examines the impact of theories of evolution on modern culture. Various issues, arising from the mid 19th century to the present, are explored - including debates between Darwin's theory and alternative views of evolution; debates between evolutionary theory and religious views; and the political manipulation of evolutionary ideas, as for example in Nazism. The recent emergence of Evolutionary Biology (aka Evolutionary Psychology) as a powerful and dynamic challenge to existing psychological and sociological views of human nature and society is critically discussed, and new theories opposing Evolutionary Biology are evaluated.