The Darwinian Revolution
Tuesday evenings: 6:15 to 9:00pm in Akerman Hall Room 327

HSCI 3242/5242
Exploring the evolution of evolutionary theory

How & when did evolutionary theories become controversial?
How many theories of evolution have been put forward? How many persist?

Through in-class writing, discussion, lecture and film we will explore the history of evolutionary thought with a focus on the interconnected web of scientific, technical, political, and religious events from the pre-Darwin era to Darwin’s death. From this ground we will connect Darwin’s contributions to evolutionary theory to major historical events: neo-Darwinism & the Modern Synthesis, the Scopes Trial, and present scientific & social controversies...

Spring 2015

We’ll explore the why’s and how’s of doing history of science, & situate Darwin & Evolution within it:
• What’s so revolutionary about Darwin’s Evolutionary Theory?
• How and why has evolution eclipsed other sciences (e.g., symbiosis & embryology)?

*The Fine Print:
• Weekly reading: 15-50 pp of Darwin’s texts & /or historical analyses of the Darwinian Revolution.
• In class discussion, writing, & quizzes throughout semester & two exams.
• 5242 students will also write a research paper.

Instructor:
Jeanette Simmonds
More information email: jsimmond@umn.edu