THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2016-2017

Philosophy 2350G: The Darwinian Revolution

Winter Term 2017	**Instructor: Wayne C. Myrvold**
M 14:30–15:30; Th 14:30–16:30	**wmyrvold@uwo.ca**
SSC 3026	**Office: Stevenson Hall 4143**
	Office Hours: MW 12:30–13:30, or by appointment

DESCRIPTION

Darwin's Theory of Evolution represents a revolution in thought, not only within science, but in the larger culture. This course will be an in-depth ramifications of this conceptual shift. We will start by placing Darwin's work in the context of pre-Darwinian biological thought, and then will look at Darwin's scientific work. This will involve reading excerpts from the *Origin of Species* and other works. We will then examine the reception of Darwin's ideas, and its impact on religious, philosophical, and social thought.

No background in science or philosophy is assumed.

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Antirequisite: Philosophy 2030F/G (126F/G).

TEXTS

Darwin, *The Origin of Species*
Coyne, *Why Evolution is True*
Selected readings, available on Course OWL site.

OBJECTIVES

The chief objective of this course is to introduce the students to key components of the Darwinian revolution. Students will be able to characterize the key differences between post-Darwinian and pre-Darwinian thought, and will identify

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and active participation in class discussions; 2 short writing assignments; two tests; term paper.

Writing assignment 1 (3–5 pp), due Jan. 26	15%
Writing assignment 2 (3–5 pp), due Mar 16	15%
Test 1 in class, Feb. 28	20%
Test 2 date TBA, during exam period	20%
Term paper (7–10 pp), due Apr. 6	30%
	100%

For written assignments, both hard copy and turnitin submission is required. Hard copy is to be handed in by 3:45 PM on the due date, and turnitin submission, by 11:59 PM. If you are unable to hand your assignment directly to the instructor, place it in the Philosophy Department drop-off box, which is on the first floor of Stevenson Hall. *Make sure that your name and the instructor's name are on your assignment.* Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day late.

In conformity with departmental policy all written assignments must be submitted to turnitin.com for plagiarism checking by the due date. Assignments not submitted to turnitin by the due date will be counted as late, and students will not receive credit for written assignments not submitted to turnitin.com.

No written work will be accepted after the last day of classes, Apr. 7, 2017.

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/proceduresappeals.html. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.