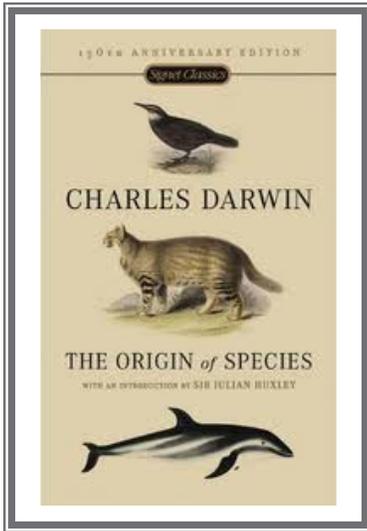


# EVOLUTIONARY STUDIES

SEE WHAT YOU CAN LEARN

## INDEPENDENT STUDY IN EVOLUTIONARY STUDIES

~ Looking into the Adaptive Function of Culture and the Arts ~



- How is culture an adaptation?
- What is theory of mind in literature?
- What are cognitive cultural studies?
- How are social emotions adaptive?
- How has the human mind evolved?
- What is the function of consciousness?
- Why do we make art?
- What behaviors do we share with apes?
- What is the human scale environmentally?

### INDEPENDENT STUDY/READING OFFERED BY PROF. TAGUE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

**1. Darwin and his world.** A reading of *On the Origin of Species* (1859, first edition, complete text) by Charles Darwin, in the context of selections from, e.g., Paley, Lamarck, Spencer, Malthus, Lyell, Wallace, and Huxley.

**2. Evolution and human culture.** Some blend of two or more of the following approaches would be expected. Prehistory and mind; Biology and morality; Culture and evolution; Arts and aesthetics.

**3. Art and adaptation.** Is art free-riding with no biological or cognitive value? How, if at all, is art connected to health, pleasure, play, neural plasticity, sexual selection, sociality, and individual and group emotions?

**4. Moral sense theory, consciousness, and the origins of narrative.** How moral sense manifests itself, indeed how we use it in different instances, depends on our variable consciousness and our more persistent character.

**5. Women primatologists: field narratives.** Readings about chimpanzees (Goodall), mountain gorillas (Fossey), orangutans (Galdikas), baboons (Strum), and muriqui monkeys (Strier).

**6. Environmental writers.** From *Cosmos* (Sagan) through *Biophilia* (Wilson) to *Gaia* (Lovelock), including Rachel Carson, Bill McKibben, Kirkpatrick Sale, and Aldo Leopold.

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ARTS, HUMANITIES & CULTURE IN LIGHT OF EVOLUTION