

Honor 2103, Spring 2009
Reading Questions for Darwin 4-5
see course schedule for days and readings.

(Tuesday) Responses to the *Origin of Species* – Reading Questions for Darwin 4

1. For the selections that are critical of Darwin's *Origin of Species*, summarize the two or three most significant objections to Darwin's theories about evolution and natural selection. That is, in your own words, identify what you think are the chief objections to Darwin's ideas from the selected readings.
2. Additionally, for the chief objections to Darwin's ideas you identified in the above question, comment on how serious these objections are for Darwin's ideas. Also, what do you think these objections reveal about the intellectual commitments of the critics (e.g., with regard to natural theology, science, etc.)?
3. For the selections that are in support of Darwin's *Origin of Species*, summarize the two or three most significant points of support. That is, what do the supporters say in support of Darwin's ideas?
4. Additionally, for the chief points of support you identified in the above question, comment on how effective these points of support are. Also, what do you think these points of support reveal about the intellectual commitments of the supporters (e.g., with regard to natural theology, science, etc.)?

(Thursday) Influence of Darwinism – Reading Questions for Darwin 5

1. In her succinct history of the influence of Darwinism on social thought, Diane Paul points to a number of key ideas/movements: social Darwinism, Lamarckianism, and Eugenics. For each of these key ideas/movements, briefly summarize the influence and connection with the ideas of evolution and natural selection as Darwin espoused them in *The Origin of Species*.
2. Many of these ideas/movements have negative associations (e.g., Eugenics is connected with Hitler's actions to exterminate Jews and other undesirables). What is your view about how "responsible" Darwin is for these more negative consequences? That is, are these developments inherent in the ideas of *The Origin of Species* or are they a distortion of those ideas?