

Honors 475: Darwin in the Modern World 3HRS
Fall 2007
CID 6879 Section 01

TTH 2pm, CFS 102

Dr. Kenneth E. Hendrickson and Dr. Glenn Sanford

Office: ABIV 453 294-1482 his_keh@shsu.edu

Hours: M-F 2-3pm or by appointment

Class Description:

HON 475 SPECIAL TOPICS IN HONORS. This course is designed to allow study by Honors students in specific areas not covered by organized undergraduate courses. Instruction may be on a group or individual basis; students will be supervised in their studies by an appropriate faculty member(s). Credit 3

Class Objectives

- A) to obtain a working familiarity with the evolutionary theory stemming from the work of Charles Darwin;
- B) to review the cultural context of reception of Darwin, in Britain and in the United States;
- C) to understand techniques in the history of science;

Required Texts

There are no required texts. You will receive web-based reading assignments via Blackboard. Students should be familiar with and comfortable using the JSTOR electronic data base of academic journal articles. Please contact the Library Reference Desk for assistance with JSTOR

Grading:

Dr. Hendrickson will not be giving comprehensive tests. Instead, students will have writing assignments (some in and some out of class) responding to various questions or readings. Students will be able to drop one grade from the Hendrickson section.

Students will be expected to complete four short essays during Sanford's section of the course. These essays will require reflection on and critical analysis of a reading (or readings) from the course. Each essay will count for 25 points. Also, all students are required to complete a group project (worth 100 points). This project will culminate in a 12-page paper. The paper must address some debate within the scope of this course. Each group must complete a project on a unique topic. Topic choices will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Finally, I reserve the right to give in-class writing assignments/quizzes. Any assignments of this sort will be worth 10 points.

Grades for both sections will be determined based upon your percentage of total points in that section using the following scale: 90-100% = A, 80-89.9% = B, 70-79.9% = C, 60-69.9% = D, below 60% = F.

Grades for the course will be determined on the same scale with your grades from Hendrickson's and Sanford's sections of the class each counting for 50% of your final total.

Your final grade will be A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F= 59 or below

Attendance: During the entirety of the semester, students are permitted two absences without penalty. All absences above and beyond two will result in a 3% penalty from the FINAL GRADE PER ABSENCE. Students must be prepared to document all absences, even the first and second. If a student has three or more absences and ANY of the absences is not excused, the 3% penalty will be applied.

SHSU University Policies:

Academic Honesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Americans with Disabilities Act :

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.