COURSE DETAIL

EVOLUTION, CULTURE, AND HUMAN NATURE
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Utrecht University – University College Utrecht
Program(s) University College Utrecht
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Sociology Biological Sciences
UCEAP Course Number 133
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title EVOLUTION, CULTURE, AND HUMAN NATURE
UCEAP Transcript Title EVOLUTN & HUM NATUR
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description
Darwin's idea of evolution by means of natural selection has united the biological disciplines in the previous century and is currently recognized as a very fruitful concept for Humanities and Social Sciences as well. This course on evolution offers a synthetic view and understanding of human nature, cooperation, and culture from the perspective of biological evolution. It allows students of different departments to be acquainted with the evolutionary theory and its manifold implications as well as to practice evolutionary thinking. Evolutionary thinking refers to analyzing complex topics from an evolutionary point of view, applying the concept of evolution to understand what has shaped the human being over millions of years into its current appearance, behavior, and cultural expressions. A large part of the course deals with different aspects of cooperation, including altruism and reciprocity, and its biological and social relevance. Through this course, students combine their knowledge from different departments and disciplines, and construct a fresh and interdisciplinary look at broader scientific, social and cultural issues, all aimed to foster an improved understanding of human nature. Although Darwin's theory of evolution through natural selection has been recognized as one of the great achievements of human kind and as the most profound shift in conceptual thinking in the last millennium, the evolutionary theory nevertheless is also notoriously controversial. Not only in society (i.e. creationism, intelligent design, and eugenics), but also within the academic world, groups of scientists question the relevance and applicability of evolutionary thinking to human affairs. Attention is also given to the arguments and counterarguments that are often used which still lead to debates.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
UCINTEVO31

Host Institution Course Title
EVOLUTION, CULTURE, AND HUMAN NATURE

Host Institution Course Details

https://cursusplanner.uu.nl/course/UCINTEVO31/2019/SEM2

Host Institution Campus
Interdepartmental

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Interdepartmental

Course Last Reviewed
2020-2021

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