

# COURSE DETAIL

## HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY

**Country**

Netherlands

**Host Institution**

Utrecht University

**Program(s)**

Utrecht University

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Philosophy History Biological Sciences

**UCEAP Course Number**

149

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

HIST & PHIL OF BIOL

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

4.00

## **Course Description**

The course consists of an integrated historical and a philosophical part. In the historical part, the period ca. 1900 until the present and concentrate on the development of biology as a separate scientific discipline, characterized by research programs that took shape over time is covered. In this section the following topics are reviewed Kant's Critic of Judgment and the emergence of the teleological understanding of living beings; The Cuvier-Geoffroy debate and its influence in the development of Darwin's theory of evolution; Darwin's theory of evolution; The rise of experimentalism in the nineteenth-century biology; The eclipse of Darwinism and discussion of neo-Lamarckism in early twentieth century; The emergence of the synthetic theory of evolution; The foundations of genetics and molecular biology; and The postgenomic turn in 21th century. The historical part ties in with several of the themes covered in the philosophical part. Some of the philosophical debates discussed in the class are Philosophy of biology and its relation to biology; The central concepts of Darwin's theory of evolution; Adaptationist debate; Species, genes, race, classification, and taxonomies; Causality and explanation in biology; and Experimental biology and epistemic objects. The course includes lectures and tutorials. Participants are expected to have carefully read the required material and have completed the weekly assignment in advance of the meeting. The weekly assignment is a reading report or a critical question depending on the week. Entrance requirements included enrollment in a degree programme of the Faculty of Science.

### **Language(s) of Instruction**

English

### **Host Institution Course Number**

B-B3GESB05

### **Host Institution Course Title**

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY

### **Host Institution Course Details**

<https://osiris-student.uu.nl/onderwijscatalogus/extern/cursussen>

**Host Institution Campus**

Utrecht University

**Host Institution Faculty**

Faculty of Science

**Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

Biology

**Course Last Reviewed**

2024-2025

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