

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 21st 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 Campus

Utrecht University

Host Institution Faculty

Faculty of Science

Host Institution Degree**Host Institution Department**

Biology

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