

EVOLUTION IS EVERYWHERE

Coordinator: James Smith

It's not just biology. Evolution operates in psychology, anthropology, political science, sociology, history, economics, gender studies...and in *your* daily life. We clarify the dynamics of an evolutionary process, and then explore how we see these principles played out in many, many (most?) fields. Much of the human world is the result of human action, but not of human design. It emerges from the interactions of millions, not from the plans of a few. Our most important achievements develop from the bottom up. This study group demolishes many conventional assumptions and may even challenge some core beliefs of regular New York Times readers (trigger warning)!

Readings:

Evolution for Everyone by David Sloan Wilson, {Delacorte Press, 2007, B000OI0GCA}.

The Evolution for Everything by Matt Ridley, {Harper, 2016, 0062296019}.

Smith directed a cultural learning organization, and has coordinated IRP groups on Neuroscience and Evolution.

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Proposed Syllabus or Outline: See Proposal Instructions for format and content.

Week 1: What did Darwin propose? How have his principles been updated over the years? What is the argument for applying these broadly?

Week 2: How did the **Universe** evolve?

Week 3: What are the key factors in the evolution of **Morality**?

Week 4: What is the evolutionary interaction between **Life Forms and Genes**?

Week 5: The evolution of **Culture**

Week 6: Is the **Economy** planned by humans? When it is, how well does that work out for them?

Week 7: What are the similarities between biological and **Technological** evolution?

Week 8: Did the **Mind and Human Personality** evolve?

Week 9: The evolution of **Government**

Week 10: How **Religion** evolved.

Week 11: The evolution of the **Internet**

Week 12: How will the **Future** be determined?