

Pre-Darwinian Evolution Reading Group

Darwin's Early Evolutionist Writings 1837-1858

Long before the co-publication by Alfred Russel Wallace and Charles Darwin of their seminal papers on natural selection, Charles Darwin was one of a significant number of mid-nineteenth century evolutionists. In this last reading group of the “British cycle” of pre-Darwinian evolutionists (in essence pre-1859), we will explore Darwin’s earliest writings (unpublished in his lifetime) on the topic of evolution, as well as some of his key letters to Joseph Hooker, Charles Lyell, and Thomas Huxley.



1849

Readings will include:

Charles Darwin Voyaging (1995, Janet Browne)

Charles Darwin’s essays of 1842 and 1844

Charles Darwin’s “Big Species Book” (written between 1856 and 1858)

Students, postdoctorals, and faculty are welcome. The reading group will meet monthly, in the evening, on the following dates: January 25 (Tuesday), February 24 (Thursday), March 25 (Friday), April 24 (Sunday). If you are interested in participating in this group (limited to 12 members), contact [William \(Ned\) Friedman](mailto:ned@colorado.edu) (ned@colorado.edu, 492-3082, or in person). The first organizational meeting will be in December, 2004.

Nota bene: This reading group will not count for graduate credit, and will require attendance (with preparation) at all sessions. Reading loads will be significant.