

Pre-Darwinian Evolution Reading Group

I. The Life of Erasmus Darwin

Dr. Erasmus Darwin (1731-1802), doctor, inventor, poet, reformer, evolutionist, and grandfather of Charles Darwin, will be the focus of this Spring semester (2001) reading group. This reading group will begin to explore the origins of evolutionary thought and the historical context within which Charles Darwin began his analysis of the process of evolution.



Readings will include:

1. *Erasmus Darwin: A Life of Unequalled Achievement* (1999; Desmond King-Hele)
2. the writings of Charles Darwin about his grandfather
3. portions of *The Botanic Garden* (1789-1792; Erasmus Darwin)
4. portions of *Zoonomia* (1794-96; Erasmus Darwin)
5. portions of *Phytologia* (1800; Erasmus Darwin)
6. portions of *The Temple of Nature* (1803; Erasmus Darwin)

Students and postdoctorals are welcome. The reading group will meet monthly, in the evening, on the following dates: February 8 (Thursday), March 9 (Friday), April 8 (Sunday), May 7 (Monday). If you are interested, contact [William \(Ned\) Friedman](mailto:ned@colorado.edu) (ned@colorado.edu, 492-3082, or in person). The first (organizational) meeting will be in early January, 2001.

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.