Overview

Evolution shaped the living world, from the flu virus to millions-strong colonies of leaf-cutter ants, and from simple sessile invertebrates to conscious and highly cultural humans. Darwin’s insight that evolution happens by natural selection remains, in the words of philosopher Daniel Dennett, “the most important idea anybody ever had”. Unfortunately, only a small proportion of people ever gain more than a superficial understanding of natural selection and how evolution works. And that can be problematic given the important insights that evolution provides into the most difficult and persistent problems that plague 21st Century living, including antibiotic resistance, obesity, overpopulation, income inequality, gender inequity and the ideological warfare that surround sex and family life.

This course introduces students from all areas of the university to the power of evolutionary thinking, and how to use it responsibly to understand modern life and the controversial issues that inhere to it. In addition to introducing the original - often counterintuitive - insights evolution provides, we explore the relationships between evolutionary, social, cultural and economic processes.

Learning involves on 2-hour lecture per week, plus a 1.5-2 hour workshop in which we will explore evolution using custom-designed video games and other interactive resources and data.

Assessment comprises three quizzes and an essay. There is no final exam.
Faculty
Faculty of Science

School
School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Study Level
Undergraduate

Offering Terms
Term 2

Campus
Kensington

Indicative contact hours
3.5

Timetable
Visit timetable website for details
Course Outline

To access course outline, please visit:

BIOS2500 Course Outline
Fees

Commonwealth Supported Students   $1191
Domestic Students            $5970
International Students       $5970

DISCLAIMER
Please note that the University reserves the right to vary student fees in line with relevant legislation. This fee information is provided as a guide and more specific information about fees, including fee policy, can be found on the fee website.

For advice about fees for courses with a fee displayed as "Not Applicable", including some Work Experience and UNSW Canberra at ADFA courses, please contact the relevant Faculty.

Where a Commonwealth Supported Students fee is displayed, it does not guarantee such places are available.
Additional Information

This course is offered as General Education.
Pre-2019 Handbook Editions

Access past handbook editions (2018 and prior)

Pre-2019 Handbook Editions
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Authorised by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
CRICOS Provider Code 00098G
ABN: 57 195 873 179