Evolutionary Wars investigates major controversies within current evolutionary theory, and between evolutionary theory and other disciplines (2 of the topics will be chosen by students). As a Philosophy course, it is concerned with assessing argumentation and evidence on both (or more) sides of controversial issues, and readings and discussions will follow this model. As a course on Evolution, it is concerned with expanding and enriching students’ understanding and appreciation of evolutionary biology as well as exploring particular concepts and problems in detail.

Expectations: It is assumed students will keep up with the readings, attend class regularly, and participate in class discussions. Since backgrounds will vary, many of the details concerning readings and assignments will be developed through class discussions. That is, the course is meant to be enriching to each student, and will be more flexible than usual in order to better accomplish this. We will explore specific topics in common, but also try to satisfy the needs and interests of individual students.

Requirements: There will be a take-home midterm examination, consisting of a 5 – 6 pp. essay on an assigned topic (one out of 2-3 prompts, on material covered up to that point in class)...worth 25% of the final grade; and a research assignment, due during finals week, on a mutually agreed upon topic (generally, a 12 – 15 pp. term paper…but, again, we can be flexible here to accommodate individual student’s interests and needs) …worth 70% of the final grade. 5% of the grade will be based on class participation.

Have A Good Semester!!!