The theory of evolution is the unifying principle of biology. However, evolution has also become one of the most controversial topics over the past 150 years since the publication of *The origin of species* by Charles Darwin in 1859. Beginning with the Scopes Trial in the 1920’s, the teaching of evolution in the American school biology curriculum has been repeatedly challenged by groups and individuals who believe in the special creation of organisms (creationists; “scientific creationism”). More recently there has been a revival of the “creation by intelligent design” viewpoint.

The course objectives include:

1. Presentation of a historical perspective on the debate surrounding evolution preceding and following the publication of *The origin of species*.
2. A review the philosophical differences inherent in discussions of religion and science.
3. An examination of the major current issues in the creationist, intelligent design, theistic evolution, and evolutionary biology world views.

Information will be presented on: the creation myths of major cultures from throughout the world, the scientific method and philosophy of science, the history of biology focussed on evolution theory, and what has become known as “scientific creationism” and creation via “intelligent design.” A synopsis of *The origin of species* will be given over the course of several lectures as will the major arguments presented for creationism and intelligent design.