

# College for Seniors

## COURSE PROPOSAL

For Curriculum Committee use		
Semester(s) this course was previously offered:	Proposal Number:	

Please complete this form with the understanding that you may revise the course description and topics before the catalog is finalized. To see a catalog from last semester, go to the College for Seniors Web site: [www.isualum.org/en/college\\_for\\_seniors](http://www.isualum.org/en/college_for_seniors)

If you are completing this form using Microsoft Word, note that it is done in tables form. To see (or to hide) the gridlines, click the Table menu and click Show Gridlines (or Hide Gridlines).

Charles Darwin: His Life, Ideas, Family, Friends, and Critics

- Course title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Science – History of the Theory of Evolution
- General field of interest** (e.g., Science, Music): \_\_\_\_\_
- Curriculum Committee contact person:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_
- Instructor or coordinator:** Laurent Hodges  
Address: P. O. Box 1238 City: Ames, Iowa Zip: 50014-1238  
Phone: 515-292-1700 E-mail: Lhodges@iastate.edu

**Brief background of instructor** (all or part of this will be used in the catalog):

Laurent Hodges is professor emeritus of physics at Iowa State University. He has an A.B. in chemistry and physics and a Ph.D. in physics from Harvard University. In 39 years at ISU he taught physics, environmental studies, and solar architecture courses and carried out research in condensed matter physics, environmental physics, and solar energy. He was the author of a textbook, Environmental Pollution.

**5. Course description** that can be used to advertise the course in the catalog (you may revise this later if you wish).

2009 will be the “Year of Darwin,” marking his 200<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of his seminal work, The Origin of Species. This course will focus on Darwin’s very ordinary yet remarkable life, the development of his main ideas, his numerous books, his family, his close colleagues, and his main critics.

**6. Specific topics** to be covered in the number of classes proposed:

About 8 classes, tentatively:

- (1) Darwin’s family and early life
- (2) Sir Charles Lyell, geologist; Voyage of the Beagle
- (3) Joseph Hooker, botanist; early work on transmutation
- (4) Thomas Henry Huxley
- (5) The origin of The Origin of Species
- (6) Alfred Russel Wallace
- (7) Criticisms of Darwinism
- (8) Darwin’s later work and reputation



CD player       Overhead transparency projector       Laser pointer

**14. Please list any potential guest presenters and city in which they live:**

Probably no guests, but if so, ISU personnel; I will check if a historian of science such as David Wilson is appropriate and available to give another perspective.

**15. Is travel reimbursement requested?**       Yes       No