Major Transitions in Evolution

10 credits

**MAIN CLASS**

Interdisciplinary Courses (L&S) 101
Major Transitions in Evolution

**LINKED CLASS**

Anthropology 104
Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity

Chemistry 103
General Chemistry I

The main seminar in this FIG, Interdisciplinary Letters & Science 101: “Major Transitions in Evolution,” will introduce you to evolutionary biology and its role in synthesizing knowledge across biology and beyond. We will do this through interactive lectures and readings that cover different aspects of evolutionary theory. Discussions will focus on clarifying how evolution can be understood to serve as an organizing principle in all of biology. Once you are feeling comfortable with the core concepts of evolution, we will put that knowledge to work in making sense of certain amazing transitions that occurred in the history of life on Earth. This will include the transition from non-life to life (a chemical problem) through some of the key transitions in the relatively recent history of the human lineage (an anthropological issue).

The goal is to equip you with an understanding of what a good evolutionary narrative looks like. As a final project, groups of students will conduct literature research on a group of organisms and then prepare a presentation summarizing the group’s evolutionary history.

Assessment will be based on quizzes, short writing assignments, a presentation, and contributions to in-class discussions and debates.

**Anthropology 104: “Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity”** — Provides a comparative cross-cultural consideration of social organization, economics, politics, language, religion, ecology, gender, and cultural change. These topics will help provide context for our analysis of the American criminal justice system and our literatures about it.

**Chemistry 103: “General Chemistry I”** — Introduction to stoichiometry and the mole concept; the behavior of gases, liquids, and solids; thermochemistry; electronic structure of atoms and chemical bonding; descriptive chemistry of selected elements and compounds; and intermolecular forces.

more on the other side
Enrolled in a FIG and you change your mind?

FIG classes are designed to be taken together. When you enroll in a FIG, you are signed up for these classes as a whole group, not as separate classes.

**Dropping one FIG class means ending your enrollment in all of the classes in the FIG.**

So, here’s what you should know if you want to drop the FIG:

- You can drop all the classes on your own at enroll.wisc.edu. Any non-FIG class will not be affected.

- After classes begin, if you need to drop a single class within the FIG, please contact Kari Fernholz (see below) to review your situation. If necessary, she will provide the required authorization to drop the class.

- **Wednesday, September 11, 2019** is the last day to drop a class without it appearing on your college transcript.

- **Friday, September 13, 2019** is the last day to add a class without first getting department permission.