

**Somerville College
Biological Sciences
Michaelmas Term 2020
1st year reading list**

Compulsory

Charles Darwin (1859) *The Origin of Species* 1st Edition

You **must** read this book because the first tutorial is based on the contents. You will need to read this in silence to enjoy the prose and to understand it properly. The 1st edition is the best one to start with. Please do not assume that because this book was written over 160 years ago that it is no longer central to our understanding of how life evolves. "The Annotated Origin" annotated by James T. Costa is an excellent edition of this published by The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press ISBN 978-0-674-06017-3

Further Suggestions

Reading any of these books/papers would be very profitable use of your time:

- Jonathan Losos (2017) *Improbable Destinies: How Predictable is Evolution?*
- Richard Southwood (2004) *The story of life*
- Ernst Mayr (1997) *This is Biology – the science of the living world*

VERY SHORT INTRODUCTIONS (VSI) published by Oxford University Press

- o Animal Kingdom by Peter Holland
- o Plants by Timothy Walker
- o Fungi by Nicholas P Money
- o Anthropocene by Erle C. Ellis

- A few journal papers to get you thinking about contemporary problems covered in the course

C. Kremen & A.M. Merenlender – Landscapes that work for biodiversity and people

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/sci/362/6412/eaau6020.full.pdf>

Jeff Ollerton – Pollinator Diversity: Distribution, Ecological Function, and Conservation

<https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev-ecolsys-110316-022919>

A.T. Cross et al. – Time for a paradigm shift toward a restorative culture

In *Restoration Ecology* doi: 10.1111/rec.12984

You will not have time to read all of these, but they are suggestions not only from the teaching staff but also from past students. You may find yourself disagreeing with some of the views expressed by the authors – this is a Good Thing!

We look forward to welcoming you to Somerville in October. We can be contacted on this email if you have any questions before you arrive : timothy.walker@some.ox.ac.uk

Renier van der Hoorn
Michelle Jackson
Timothy Walker

13th July 2002