

**Somerville College  
Biology  
Michaelmas Term 2021  
1<sup>st</sup> year reading list**

**Compulsory**

**Charles Darwin (1859) *The Origin of Species* 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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?*
- Merlin Sheldrake (2020) *Entangled Life*
- Tom Higham (2021) *The World before Us*

VERY SHORT INTRODUCTIONS (VSI) published by Oxford University Press

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

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.

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:

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22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021