

**UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH GRADUATE COURSES**  
**SUMMER SESSION 2015**

**ENGLISH 503/A01 (#31131)      SPECIAL STUDIES I**  
*Darwinist Anthropology and Literary Studies*  
**(1.5 units)**

**May 11 to June 26**  
**Monday and Wednesday, 1:00-3:50 p.m.**  
**CLE C316**

**Dr. Richard van Oort**

In many ways, the twentieth century has belonged to Darwin. Philosophy, once considered the “queen of the sciences,” has retreated. Meanwhile the biological sciences have gone from triumph to triumph, influencing many areas of the social sciences including psychology, linguistics, sociology, and anthropology. More recently, Darwinists have turned their attention to areas traditionally regarded as immune to science, including religion and literature. This incursion into the heart of the humanities has generated considerable polemic from both scientists and cultural critics—so much, indeed, that it is often difficult to make sense of the underlying conflict responsible for the debate in the first place. In this course, we will attempt to understand the conflict by focusing on the problem of the origin of symbolic representation. For guidance on this topic, we will read the work of cultural anthropologist Adam Kuper, biological anthropologist Terrence Deacon, psychologist Michael Tomasello, linguistic anthropologist Robbins Burling, philosopher John Searle, literary critic Eric Gans, and clinical neuroscientist and philosopher Raymond Tallis. By the end of this course, seminar participants should have a pretty good idea of what is at stake in the current debate over Darwinism in literary studies. By focusing on the question of language origin, we will be able to assess both the explanatory power and the limits of Darwinist anthropology.

For more information, visit the course website: <<http://web.uvic.ca/~rvanoort/englxxx.html>>.

**TENTATIVE TEXTS**

Adam Kuper, *The Chosen Primate*; Terrence Deacon, *The Symbolic Species*; Michael Tomasello, *The Cultural Origins of Cognition*; Robbins Burling, *The Talking Ape*; John Searle, *The Construction of Social Reality*; Eric Gans, *The Scenic Imagination*; Raymond Tallis, *Aping Mankind*.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Presentation and short paper (30%), long paper (60%), participation (10%).

**ENGLISH 509     DIGITAL LITERARY STUDIES: DHSI PROSEMINAR**  
**(1.5 units)**  
**May 4 to August 21**

A directed studies course in an area of the digital humanities, to be combined with curriculum offered by the Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI). May be taken more than once for credit in different topics. *Interested students should contact the instructor ahead of time to discuss their plans.*

Registration in English 509 is by permission of the instructor via a Pro Forma Proposal form (<<http://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/assets/docs/docs/forms/ProFormaregform.pdf>>). Before registering for English 509, students must be registered in the corresponding DHSI course.

Students registered in English 509 pay the usual UVic graduate tuition and fees, plus the cost of a DHSI course (\$300 for UVic graduate students). A limited number of \$150 DHSI scholarships are available, and the scholarship application deadline is February 14, 2015. Scholarships are awarded on a rolling basis, so apply very early if you are considering this route. DHSI courses have filled up quickly in the past.

See <<http://www.dhsi.org>> for complete information on the DHSI and on tuition scholarships for graduate students.

**Section A01: *Physical Computing and Desktop Fabrication***  
**Dr. Jentery Sayers**

An extension of the 2015 Digital Humanities Summer Institute seminar (#22) taught by Jentery Sayers, Nina Belojevic, Devon Elliott, and Shaun Macpherson, this directed studies course is for students who wish to pursue research from the DHSI course “Physical Computing and Desktop Fabrication.” This course is a hands-on introduction to physical computing and desktop fabrication from a humanities perspective. It is appropriate for undergraduate and graduate students as well as staff and faculty. The course allows all involved to explore a variety of approaches, across disciplinary interests, in a studio-like environment that encourages experimentation and iterative development. Participants will have opportunities to build simple, interactive, tangible, and even wearable devices using open source microcontroller platforms, 3D scanners, and basic electronic sensors and actuators. They will also digitize three-dimensional objects to create computer models, which will then be fabricated using a 3D printer, laser cutter, or similar machine. Participants will need to provide their own laptops, and they will be encouraged to re-purpose, hack, bend, program, and network electronic objects made available to them. Technologies will likely include Arduino, Raspberry Pi, LilyPad, MaxMSP, Processing, SketchUp, 123D Catch, and netfabb. Curiosity aside, there are no prerequisites for this course.

**Section A02, et al.: [*Titles as per DHSI Seminars*]**  
**Dr. Raymond Siemens**

These sections are for students who wish to pursue research from any DHSI Seminar *other than* #22 (“Physical Computing and Desktop Fabrication”).