

**Course Title** : Understanding Evolution  
**Course Code** : CLD9015  
**Recommended Study Year** : Any  
**No. of Credits/Term Mode of Tuition** : 3  
: Lecture-Tutorial  
**Class Contact Hours** : 3 hours/week (one 2-hour lecture, one 1-hour tutorial)  
**Category** : Science, Technology, and Society Cluster in Core Curriculum  
**Prerequisite** : None  
**Teaching Language** : English

**Time:** tbc

**Instructor:** Jonathan Fong

**Office Location:** NAB116

**Location:** tbc

**e-mail:** jonfong@ln.edu.hk

**Office Hours:** tbc

### **Brief Course Description:**

*"Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution"* (Dobzhansky, 1973)

Biology is the study of living things, and includes a diverse range of topics such as genetics, physiology, and ecology—evolution is the theory that connects all subjects in biology. The goal of this course is to provide students with a working knowledge of evolutionary theory and use it to understand current issues (i.e. disease, climate change, and human behavior). The course will begin with lessons on the nature of science, followed by the history of evolutionary thought, key concepts of evolution, implications of evolution, and application to current issues.

### **Learning Outcomes (LOs):**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. differentiate between scientific and non-scientific inquiry (nature of science).
2. explain the theory and mechanism of evolution.
3. navigate the science vs. religion debate.
4. apply evolutionary principles to current issues.
5. effectively present information and express ideas using written and oral media.

### **Assessment:**

Tests: 50% (Test 1: 25%, Test 2: 25%)

Independent project: 25%

Continuous assessment: 25% (assignments, presentations, participation)

Final Grade: A (100-90), B (89-80), C (79-70), D (69-60), F (<60)

### **Test Policy:**

If you miss the test due to some medical emergency, contact me as soon as possible. You will only be able to take a make-up test if you have a doctor's note. There will be an automatic deduction of 10-20%.

### **Essential Readings:**

Zimmer C (2014) *The Tangled Bank. An Introduction to Evolution*. Second Edition. Roberts and Company Publishers, USA.