

Lecture One: The Possibility and Consequences of Evolution

Evolution is most often studied as a phenomenon of the biological world. We will be studying it as a phenomenon of human society in history. As a prelude to that, I want to consider evolution as a phenomenon inherent in the natural world as such. In the process of suggesting “Why Natural Selection Leads to Complexity” David Hays and I point out that one of the basic assumptions of Western thought is that, beneath the bewildering complexity of phenomenal appearance, true reality is simple. We argue that that view is mistaken. True reality is complex as well, though complex in a special way. Evolution is a consequence of fundamental complexity. Further, the universe is *fecund* in the sense that, over the long term, new realms of being emerge. Human Culture is a realm that emerged from Biology.

Why Natural Selection Leads to Complexity:
<http://asweknowit.ca/evcult/Complexity.shtml>

Pursued by Knowledge in a Fecund Universe:
<http://asweknowit.ca/evcult/Fecundity.shtml>