



Extra Credit Movie Review*: *CREATION*

*Reviews should be no less than 1 ½ - 2 pages in length. Typed and double spaced.

*Up to 25 extra credit points can be earned (depending on the quality of the review).

This is the story behind Darwin's *creation* of his powerful explanatory theory: the theory of evolution by natural selection. This film provides an intimate portrait of Darwin the man: as naturalist, scientist, husband, and father. It also gives us a glimpse of the struggles and torments he endured intellectually, physically, and spiritually as he developed his meticulous, empirically based observations, experiments and ideas into a cohesive explanation for how biological change occurs.

As you watch the film, pay attention to the following depictions and be prepared to discuss them in your review of the film:

- Darwin was a meticulous scientist. Watch for examples of his use of empirical, scientific based methods throughout the film.
- In the mid-19th century, as today, many people felt that if *natural* causes could be used to explain the diversity of species, then there was no need or room for divine causes or religious explanations. The scientific materialists of his time particularly embraced Darwin's theory & used it to champion their own conclusions. Darwin had anticipated this, which made him all the more reluctant to publish his ideas for both personal and professional reasons. Watch for the part in the film where it is clear that his theory was being "co-opted" to support the materialist agenda.
- What incidents in Darwin's personal life led him to question his faith?
- How does the movie portray the relationship between science and religion?
- What is your view of Darwin after having seen the film? Does he deserve to be vilified as the scientist who "killed God" or respected for ultimately challenging conventional thinking (as did Copernicus and Galileo in their times).

Remember, this is very much a "Hollywood" version, so it is not necessarily an entirely accurate personal portrayal, but it is an interesting one nonetheless.

Finally, your review should not be a summary of the movie (I have already seen it), but rather, your reflection on what you learned and thought about it.