

The influence of conflict, religiosity, and popular media when teaching evolution.

Abstract: Evolution is the central theme of understanding biology but is rejected by about 40% of the US population. Religiosity and the perceived conflict between religion and evolution are the most significant reasons many students do not fully accept evolution. Another reason students may not accept evolution is the many incorrect portrayals of evolution students come across on a given day when viewing popular media (Memes, social media, Movies, TV shows). In this seminar, we will look at the current state of evolution acceptance and evolution portrayals found in popular media and highlight some ways we can better communicate science to students.