

Course Description: **The Mystery of Life's Origin 2026**

This one-semester course serves as an overview of current theories on human origin, in particular, how did the first cell arise. These theories have long been a source of contention between religious and secular scientists. Non-evolutionary theories on the origin of life are routinely dismissed by secular scientists even though many aspects of evolutionary theory are highly implausible and lack scientific rigor. Nowhere is this more apparent than research on the abiotic origin of life, which has not advanced significantly over the past 70 years. This course is designed to give students an understanding of the major issues involved and a framework on how to think about these issues.

Because of the emphasis on cell biology, completion of a basic biology course is highly recommended.

Homework will be minimal. There will be a few quizzes on material covered in class. Students will have the opportunity to research and write a short paper and to present their findings in class.

There is no required text for the course, but there will be a number of handouts and reading assignments. Students should have a notebook or folder to keep all course notes together.

Teacher: **Dr. David Thompson** Cost: \$100 Fall Semester Only 60 min class

Tuesdays, 9:30 – 10:30 am, at Chesterfield Presbyterian Church

Student orientation: Aug. 13, 2026 Time TBA

Fall Semester only: Aug. 18, 2026 to Nov. 19, 2026 This class meets on TUESDAYS.

This class will be cancelled if it does not reach a minimum of 5 students.

Dr. Thompson has worked as a toxicologist in academic, pharmaceutical and industrial settings. He majored in biology at Wheaton College, got his Masters in environmental health from the University of Minnesota, and earned a PhD in toxicology from Johns Hopkins University. The creation/evolution debate has fascinated him for decades.