

Origins of Life: New Ideas, Surprises and Controversies

Explore one of history's last great unsolved mysteries ... on Videocassette, CD or DVD

Of all the great unanswered questions, none is more compelling, mysterious, or controversial than the question of life's origins and evolution.

Man has postulated dozens of theories dating back to Thales of Miletus in 600 BC. Today the exciting, breakthrough field of "emergence", which explains how simple systems spontaneously become more complex, may be bringing us closer than ever to answering the fundamental questions of life's remarkable origin.

This series of 24 intriguing lectures takes you on an exciting adventure through the scientific, historical and philosophical landmarks surrounding the age-old mystery of life.

It introduces and probes the new field of emergence that has helped to frame the origin of life as a sequence of chemical steps where each step increases the complexity of the system.

Daring experiments, surprising findings, and wild hypotheses will tantalize you at every turn. You will be spellbound as you learn about amazing discoveries in chemistry, biology, astronomy, geology, and other scientific fields that are methodically bringing us ever closer to an answer. Finally, you will build a firm foundation on which to base your understanding of the many new discoveries that are just over the horizon.

A Great Professor

Robert M. Hazen is a research scientist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington's Geophysical Laboratory and Clarence Robinson Professor of Earth Science at George Mason University. Professor Hazen's recent research focuses on the role of minerals and high-pressure organic synthesis in the origin of life. Among his many accolades, professor



Hazen has received the Mineralogical Society of America Award (1982), the American Chemical Society Ipatieff Prize (1986), the ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award (1989), the Educational Press Association Award (1992), Fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1994), and the American Crystallographic Association's Science Writing Award (1998).

Whatever your current views on life's origins, you will be awestruck as professor Hazen plunges you into the thick of breakthrough research and discovery. "I take you into the field to see what the geologists see, and to puzzle with them as they try to sort out the meanings of ancient rocks, into the lab to show you how we do origin experiments and other ongoing research so you see how unscripted, creative, mysterious and fascinating this scientific process is."

Especially For The Lifelong Learner

This is NOT a recycled college lecture, and NOT online or distance learning. There are no

tests, no homework and no classes. This compelling and engaging course has been carefully crafted to energize you, the adult lifelong learner, and help you expand your knowledge ... at your own pace.

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Lecture Titles

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2. The Historical Setting of Origins Research
3. What Is Life?
4. Is There Life on Mars?
5. Earth's Oldest Fossils
6. Fossil Isotopes
7. Molecular Biosignatures
8. Emergence
9. The Miller-Urey Experiment
10. Life from the Bottom of the Sea
11. The Deep, Hot Biosphere
12. Experiments at High Pressure
13. More Experiments Under Pressure
14. Deep Space Dust, Molten Rock, and Zeolite
15. Macromolecules and the Tree of Life
16. Lipids and Membrane Self-Organization
17. Life on Clay, Clay as Life
18. Life's Curious Handedness
19. Self-Replicating Molecular Systems
20. Günter Wächtershäuser's Grand Hypothesis
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