

Course Syllabus

GLY3603C Paleontology

Scroll down to bottom of Syllabus to view assignment due dates

Instructor:

Dr. Courtney Sprain

Department of Geological Sciences

Box 112120 Williamson Hall

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-2120

Office Location: Office hours are held via Zoom.

Office Hours: M 12-1 PM ET and Th 6:30-7:30 PM ET and by request

Email: Preferred: Conversations (Inbox) tool within Canvas. Or csprain@ufl.edu (mailto:csprain@ufl.edu), if necessary.

Note: For information on how to use the Canvas Inbox, view the [Inbox](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121#jive_content_id_Conversations) (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121#jive_content_id_Conversations) section of the [Student Guide](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121) (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121).

Lab Instructor:

TA: Carmi Thompson

Office hours: TBD.

Email: Preferred: Inbox tool within Canvas. Or cthompson@floridamuseum.ufl.edu (mailto:cthompson@floridamuseum.ufl.edu), if necessary.

Questions:

1. Check the [Syllabus](#) and [Start Here](#) section to make sure your question is not already answered.
2. If you can't find the answer to your question there, check the [Course Questions Discussion Board](#) to see if anyone else had the same question.
3. If your question has not already been asked, post the question to the [Course Questions Discussion Board](#).

If you are experiencing technical difficulties, follow the instructions for [Technical Help](#) in the Start Here section.

If you have a personal question, follow the instructions for Personal Questions below.

Please allow 24 hours for a response. Questions posted over the weekend may not receive a response until the beginning of the following week.

Personal Questions:

If you have a question that is of a personal nature or one that concerns grades, contact your instructor or TA through Canvas.

Note: If you are asking a question about information that is already contained in the Start Here section or Syllabus, be sure to state what is unclear about the existing information. Otherwise, you will be referred to the handbook and syllabus.

Office Hours:

Office Hours: M 12-1 PM ET and Th 6:30-7:30 PM ET on Zoom conferences or by request.

Course Objectives:

When you complete this course, you will be able to:

- Describe the nature of fossilization and their environments of preservation.
- Explain evolutionary theory, the species concept, patterns of evolution, and causes of extinction.
- Explain methods of biostratigraphic-magnetostratigraphic-chemostratigraphic correlation.
- Analyze taxonomic principles.
- Describe the biology (if extant) and fossil characteristics of all Paleozoic-Recent invertebrate phyla.

- Examine the nature of the invertebrate assemblages of the Phanerozoic and assess their environmental and stratigraphic significance.
- Identify key ways to use fossil assemblages to establish a rapid age determination of rocks and sediments.
- Describe the origin and changes in reef assemblages, their manifestation in the geologic record, and economic importance.
- Describe the morphologic characteristics of all major microfossil groups.
- Explain the usefulness of microfossils in stratigraphic and paleoenvironmental analysis.

Start Here Module:

Your first source of information for answering your questions is the [Start Here](#) module. Always check this module before emailing us with your questions.

Exams & Grading:

All three lecture exams are taken online on Canvas and will be proctored using Honorlock. You will need a webcam to use Honorlock and will need to be able to take the exams in a room by yourself at a clear desk.

Lab exercises will be submitted in digital form and in some cases must be scanned and uploaded to Canvas as a PDF or Word Document.

Assignment DUE times and dates will be listed with each assignment and the time they are due may be different between assignments. Make sure to keep track on the Course Summary/Calendar!

Your grade is based upon:

- Lecture Grades (45%)
 - Three lecture exams (non-cumulative), 15% each
- Lab Grades (40%)
 - Lab exercises (14 exercises, most counting the same toward 40% of your course grade)
- Discussion (15%)
 - Each Module will contain a Discussion that comprises an activity, such as reading an article, that you are required to share your opinion on. Each discussion is worth 20 points and you must compose your own post and also comment on two others. Discussions will be done in discussion groups that will be assigned.

Extra Credit:

You can earn 1.5% extra credit (added to your overall grade) if you complete the [Syllabus and Start Here Quiz](#) prior to the deadlines listed in your Course Calendar. An additional 1.5% can be earned if you participate in the [Paleontology in your life-Extra credit discussion](#).

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade

- A= >90%
- B+=87.5-90%
- B=80-87.5%
- C+=77.5-80%
- C=70-77.5%
- D+=67.5-70%
- D=60-67.5%
- E=<60

Textbook and Fossil Kit:

The majority of the course lecture material for this class is in your Power Points, videos, and the textbook:

Bringing Fossils to Life: An Introduction to Paleobiology by Donald R. Prothero; ISBN-10: 0231158939 ISBN-13: 978-0231158930; Columbia University Press (3rd edition)

There is no lab manual. The text available in [Module 3](#) and your textbook are all the reference material you need.

You will also need to purchase a fossil kit for this course. The kit is available at the [University of Florida Bookstore website](#) (<https://www.bkstr.com/floridastore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials>) and the item is called "GLY 3105 & 3603" If you enter the course information using the drop down menus the kit will show up under the list of required materials. Kits are still under construction but will be available to order at the start of term. Kits are not needed immediately for lab.

You will rent the kit for a rental fee of \$81.75 (covers postage to your home and a postage paid return address label). You will use the postage

paid return address label to return the kit. You will be charged an additional \$200.00 if you do not return the kit, and your student record will be flagged until payment is made.

Note: The fossil kit must be returned prior to the final exam to obtain a grade.

Students with Disabilities:

More information is available in the following pages of the Start Here module:

- [Course Tools & Technology](#)
- [UF Policies & Services](#)

Academic Honesty & Student Code of Conduct:

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the [UF Student Honor Code](#) (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>).

The University of Florida Honor Code was voted on and passed by the Student Body in the Fall 1995 semester. The Honor Code reads as follows:

Preamble: In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. A student-run Honor Court and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

The Honor Code: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."






If you are caught cheating or helping someone else cheat, you will be subject to sanctions according to the procedures of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (SCCR). If you suspect another student of cheating, please let me know, or call the Cheating Hotline (352-392-6999).

For more information about academic honesty, contact Student Judicial Affairs, P202 Peabody Hall, 352-392-1261.

University Counseling Services & Mental Health Services:




More information is available in the Start Here module [UF Policies & Services](#) page.

Course Summary:









Date	Details	
Mon Jan 11, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813445&include_contexts=course_418421)	12pm to 1pm
Thu Jan 14, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813431&include_contexts=course_418421)	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Mon Jan 18, 2021	 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1786024&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813446&include_contexts=course_418421)	12pm to 1pm
Tue Jan 19, 2021	 Finish Module 1 (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1786009&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am

Date	Details	
Thu Jan 21, 2021	 Syllabus and Start Here Quiz (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4500245)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 21, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813432&include_contexts=course_418421)	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Fri Jan 22, 2021	 Discussion Module 1 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4535269)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 22, 2021	 Lab 1 - Getting Started (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4500259)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 25, 2021	 Fossil ID Reminder (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1786022&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
Mon Jan 25, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813447&include_contexts=course_418421)	12pm to 1pm
Thu Jan 28, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813433&include_contexts=course_418421)	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Fri Jan 29, 2021	 Lab 2-Part 1 Hunting for Fossils (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4500260)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 1, 2021	 Fossil ID Reminder (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1785958&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
Mon Feb 1, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813448&include_contexts=course_418421)	12pm to 1pm
Thu Feb 4, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813434&include_contexts=course_418421)	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Fri Feb 5, 2021	 Finish Module 2 (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1786040&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
Fri Feb 5, 2021	 Discussion Module 2 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4535270)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 8, 2021	 Lab 3-Sponges & Archeocyathids (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4500248)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 8, 2021	 Fossil ID Reminder (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1785959&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
Mon Feb 8, 2021	 Fossil ID Reminder (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1786023&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am

Date	Details	
Wed Feb 10, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813449&include_contexts=course_418421)	12pm to 1pm
Wed Feb 10, 2021	 Exam 1 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4500254)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 11, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813435&include_contexts=course_418421)	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Fri Feb 12, 2021	 Lab 4: Cnidarians (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4500243)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 15, 2021	 Fossil ID Reminder (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1785960&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
Thu Feb 18, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813450&include_contexts=course_418421)	12pm to 1pm
Thu Feb 18, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813436&include_contexts=course_418421)	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Fri Feb 19, 2021	 Lab 5-Brachiopods and Bryozoans (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4500257)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 22, 2021	 Fossil ID Reminder (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1785961&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
Mon Feb 22, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813451&include_contexts=course_418421)	12pm to 1pm
Thu Feb 25, 2021	 Lab 2-Part 2 Hunting for Fossils (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4500261)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 25, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813437&include_contexts=course_418421)	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Fri Feb 26, 2021	 Finish Module 4 (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1785976&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
Fri Feb 26, 2021	 Discussion Module 4 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4535272)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 1, 2021	 Lab 6-Echinoderms: Crinoids, Blastoids and Cystoids (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4500249)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 1, 2021	 Fossil ID Reminder (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1785962&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am

Date	Details	
Thu Mar 4, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813452&include_contexts=course_418421)	12pm to 1pm
Thu Mar 4, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813438&include_contexts=course_418421)	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Fri Mar 5, 2021	 Finish Module 5 (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1786031&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
Fri Mar 5, 2021	 Discussion Module 5 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4535274)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 5, 2021	 Lab 7-Echinoderms: Asteroids, Ophiuroids, Regular and Irregular Echinoids (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4500256)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 8, 2021	 Fossil ID Reminder (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1786026&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
Mon Mar 8, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813453&include_contexts=course_418421)	12pm to 1pm
Thu Mar 11, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813439&include_contexts=course_418421)	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Fri Mar 12, 2021	 Finish Module 6.1 (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1786035&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
Fri Mar 12, 2021	 Lab 8-Mollusca: Chitons, Scaphopods, & Gastropods (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4500242)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 15, 2021	 Fossil ID Reminder (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813674&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
Mon Mar 15, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813454&include_contexts=course_418421)	12pm to 1pm
Wed Mar 17, 2021	 Exam 2 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4500247)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 18, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813440&include_contexts=course_418421)	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Fri Mar 19, 2021	 Finish Module 6 (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1786036&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
Fri Mar 19, 2021	 Discussion Module 6 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4535275)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
	 Lab 9-Mollusca: Bivalves and Cephalopods /courses/418421/assignments/4500251	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 22, 2021	 Fossil ID Reminder /calendar?event_id=1813675&include_contexts=course_418421	12am
	 Office hours /calendar?event_id=1813455&include_contexts=course_418421	12pm to 1pm
Thu Mar 25, 2021	 Office hours /calendar?event_id=1813441&include_contexts=course_418421	6:30pm to 7:30pm
	 Finish Module 7 /calendar?event_id=1786037&include_contexts=course_418421	12am
Fri Mar 26, 2021	 Discussion Module 7 /courses/418421/assignments/4535276	due by 11:59pm
	 Lab 10-Arthropods & Graptolites /courses/418421/assignments/4500255	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 29, 2021	 Fossil ID Reminder /calendar?event_id=1813676&include_contexts=course_418421	12am
	 Office hours /calendar?event_id=1813456&include_contexts=course_418421	12pm to 1pm
Wed Mar 31, 2021	 Fossil ID Final Due /courses/418421/assignments/4500258	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 1, 2021	 Office hours /calendar?event_id=1813442&include_contexts=course_418421	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Fri Apr 2, 2021	 Lab 11- Microfossil Lab 1: Siliceous Microfossils /courses/418421/assignments/4500252	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 5, 2021	 Office hours /calendar?event_id=1813457&include_contexts=course_418421	12pm to 1pm
Thu Apr 8, 2021	 Office hours /calendar?event_id=1813443&include_contexts=course_418421	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Fri Apr 9, 2021	 Lab 12-Microfossil Lab 2: Calcareous Microfossils /courses/418421/assignments/4500253	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 12, 2021	 Office hours /calendar?event_id=1813458&include_contexts=course_418421	12pm to 1pm

Date	Details	
Thu Apr 15, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813444&include_contexts=course_418421)	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Fri Apr 16, 2021	 Finish Module 8 (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1786034&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
Fri Apr 16, 2021	 Discussion Module 8 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4535278)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 16, 2021	 Lab 13- Microfossil Lab 3: Palynomorph Microfossils & Conodonts (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4500244)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 19, 2021	 Office hours (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1813459&include_contexts=course_418421)	12pm to 1pm
Wed Apr 21, 2021	 Exam 3 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4500250)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 23, 2021	 University of Florida GatorEvals – Spring 2020 (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1786001&include_contexts=course_418421)	12am
Fri Apr 23, 2021	 Paleontology in your life-Extra credit discussion (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418421/assignments/4535282)	due by 11:59pm