

Age of Dinosaurs

Syllabus Gly 1102 Summer 2022 University of Florida

Welcome to Age of Dinosaurs. This asynchronous online course will explore some fundamental concepts of geology, biology, and dinosaurs of all shapes and sizes. This is an introductory level course with no prerequisites. Please read through the syllabus for information to help you succeed in this course.

INSTRUCTORS

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Wilhelmi

Email: Please use Canvas email. If you have email that can't be sent through Canvas, use rwilhelmi@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Via Zoom Friday 11 am to 1 pm Eastern Time (Link will be sent in announcements)

Teaching Assistant: Ranpeng Li

Email: Please use Canvas email

Office Hours: Via Zoom Tuesday 4-5 pm Eastern Time (Link will be sent in announcements)

COURSE MATERIAL:

The textbook for this course is *Dinosaurs: The Textbook*, 6th Edition by Spencer Lucas. The science of paleontology is constantly updating our understanding of dinosaurs, so please find the 6th edition and not an earlier version. You may purchase it through the UF bookstore or rent/buy through 3rd party sellers such as Amazon. The first week's reading material uses open online sources to give you time to get the book, but you will need the textbook for the rest of the course. Please note, the 7th edition is being advertised on some sites, do not buy it. The 7th edition is only available as a preorder, so you would not receive it until mid-July.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Computer & Internet: Students must use the email tool in Canvas for this course to communicate with the instructor and teaching assistant. Students are recommended to check their email account DAILY for the duration of the course. Access to and on-going use of a computer with Internet access is required for all students. Competency in the basic use of a computer is required. At times, computers crash, and Internet connections fail. It is in your best interest NOT to wait until the last minute to complete assignments.

For help with e-Learning, contact the Help Desk at <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu> or (352) 392-HELP - select option 2.

COURSE RELATED QUESTIONS: Please post general questions about the course in the Course Questions Discussion Board so the question can be answered for everyone. Before posting, please check to see if your question has already been asked and answered. For questions about grading, accommodations, and other personal questions you don't want to post on the discussion board, please contact us via Canvas email, or meet with us during office hours. If the above office hours do not work for you, please contact us so we can arrange to meet at a time that is mutually convenient.

Key Dates:

Exam 1 Window: July 14th-18th

Exam 2 Window: August 3rd-5th

COURSE DETAILS:

Prerequisites and Course Info: This is an introductory course with no prerequisites. It satisfies GenEd Physical Science (P) and Biological Science (B) course requirements. Credit hours: 3. This course is online and asynchronous, meaning no required activities will be conducted “live”.

Course Summary & Goals: The focus of this course is dinosaurs. However, to understand dinosaurs and their place in Earth’s history, we will necessarily explore the basics of geology. These basics include how the Earth changes over time, and how rocks and fossils form. We will cover basic biology concepts, including organization and classification of taxa, anatomy, and ecosystems. These concepts will help you understand dinosaurs as living organisms. The primary goals of this course are to:

- Introduce the science of Paleontology through an examination of dinosaurs and other Mesozoic life.
- Learn about the materials, processes and events that comprise and shape the Earth over time.
- Examine the concepts of Deep Time including the geologic time scale and how to determine the age of rock layers and fossils.
- Learn the basic concepts of biology, ecology and anatomy needed to understand dinosaurs and their place in the history of life on Earth.
- Understand the process of scientific inquiry and refine critical thinking skills.
- Improve scientific literacy by strengthening knowledge of the concepts and terminology used in scientific research and news articles.

Course Schedule: The summer version of the course moves quickly, and we will cover two modules most weeks. Each “week” opens and closes on a Monday. New Modules open at noon, prior modules close at 11:59 pm (US Eastern Time) unless otherwise noted. The best place to find updates or changes to the course schedule is on the class Canvas page, and an announcement will always be made if the schedule changes.

Schedule by Week		
Week	Modules	Textbook Chapters
1.) 6/27 - 7/5*	Start Here Module Module 1: Introduction to Geology & Paleontology Module 2: Fossils and Paleoenvironments	Ch 1 and Online resources Ch 3
2.) 7/5 - 7/11	Module 3: Evolution, Phylogeny and Classification Module 4: The Mesozoic World	Ch 2 Ch 10
3.) 7/11 – 7/18	Module 5: Sharp Teeth and Quick Feet – Theropods Exam 1: Modules 1-5 (open 7/14-7/18)	Ch 5
4.) 7/18 – 7/25	Module 6: The Giants – Saruopodomorphs Module 7: Duckbills and Crested Heads – Ornithopods	Ch 6 Ch 7
5.) 7/25 – 8/01	Module 8: Armor Up! – Thyreophorans Module 9: Boneheads & Beaks - Marginocephalians	Ch 8 Ch 9
6.) 8/01 – 8/5**	Module 10: The Survivors – Extinction and Beyond Exam 2: Modules 6-10 (open 8/3-8/5)	Ch 15&16

*Modules typically start and end on Mondays, but 7/4 is a holiday, so week one will close on a Tuesday 7/5.

**The last week closes on a Friday – the last day of the course.

Course Responsibilities: You will need to have regular internet access and time to explore the resources available on each topic. Over the course of the semester, you will have the following responsibilities:

Complete all Module assignments in a timely fashion. Each module includes reading assignments from the textbook and other sources, video lectures and other video content (with accompanying PowerPoint presentations as pdfs), a Module Quiz, and an Assignment and/or Discussion. Requirements for class participation, make-up exams and other work is consistent with university policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

- Check the announcements and your e-mail regularly (I suggest you do this daily). It is the only way I can directly communicate with you in an online class. Checking in on course Discussion boards is also highly encouraged.

COURSE ACTIVITY TYPES

Assignments: Many modules have lab Assignments. All module assignments are due no later than 11:55 on the last day of the module, which is usually a Monday. Assignments are worth 50 points each.

Quizzes: Each Module has a quiz worth 20 points that draws from all assigned module material – lecture, other videos, and readings. Module Quizzes are not timed or proctored, and you have two chances on each quiz.

Discussions: This is your chance to thoughtfully engage in topics that are being actively debated/discussed in the world of dinosaur paleontology. You will be expected to post a thoughtful, detailed response according to the Substantive Post Guidelines and Discussion Rubrics on the class website. Deadlines for discussion posts are listed on the course calendar. It is easy to forget to do initial posts, so please keep an eye on due dates. Full participation in a Discussion, as outlined in the instructions for each Discussion, is worth 50 points. The summer session has 3 Discussion assignments.

Exams: Summer sections have 2 Exams. Exam 1 covers Modules 1-5, and Exam 2 covers Modules 6-10. Each exam is worth 150 points. Exams are proctored with Honorlock. Here are some key points about Honorlock Proctoring:

- You will need a computer with reliable internet access, a webcam, and microphone.
- You will be required to show picture identification at the time of your exam. Approved forms of identification include, a driver's license, military identification card, passport, or school-issued identification card.
- You are allowed to use your notes for exams, but internet browsing will be disabled while your exam is open, so it is important that any digital notes you wish to access are stored on your local hard drive and not stored online.

GRADING

See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> for general UF grading policies. Grades will be based on points accumulated through course activities:

Activity Type	Total Points
Quizzes (10)	200
Assignments (6)	300
Discussions (3)	150
Exams (2)	300
Total	950

Extra Credit: You may earn up to ten points of extra credit for correctly answering the questions in the Syllabus and Start Here Quiz.

Final Grading is based on the percentage breakdown below.

PERCENT	GRADE	GRADE POINTS
93 or above	A	4.00
90 - 92	A-	3.67
87 - 89	B+	3.33
83 - 86	B	3.00
80 - 82	B-	2.67
77 - 79	C+	2.33
73 - 76	C	2.00
70 - 72	C-	1.67
67 - 69	D+	1.33
63 - 66	D	1.00
60 - 62	D-	0.67
59 or below	E	0.00

COURSE POLICIES

Late Work Policy: Students will be allowed one unexcused extension, of 48 hours, which may be applied to a quiz, assignment, or discussion post. To use this extension, students must ask for the extension and complete the assignment within 48 hours of the original due date. This unexcused extension **does not apply** to either of the exams, or to assignments, discussions, and quizzes due the last week of class. Except for the above exceptions any other work submitted after the due date without a prior approved extension (for illness or emergency), will be considered late and receive a zero. In the event of illness or emergency, you must provide documentation and contact the Dean of Students office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/>

Performance Policy: This online course has been developed with the same rigorous standards of content as a campus course. Expectations for your performance are as high as they would be if you are taking this course in a classroom.

UF POLICIES

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. 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." The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. It is expected that all work submitted for assignments is original and cited correctly. Violations to the code will be reported and plagiarism will result in a failing grade. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Netiquette – Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Please read the Netiquette Guide for Online Courses (https://www.cise.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CISE_Netiquette_Guide.pdf).

UF Statement on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center by calling 352-392-8565 or online at <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Religious Observances, Military Duty & other Unavoidable Absences: Students who anticipate the necessity of missing homework deadlines and discussions due to religious observances *must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor*, in writing at least a week in advance of the missed class days so accommodations can be made for missed work. For National Guard, jury duty, scheduled medical treatments or other unavoidable absences, contact me as soon as you know the dates. Do not wait until after you have missed assignments to ask for an exception, as it may no longer be feasible to make-up some assignments.

UF Online Student Handbook: Available at: <http://handbook.uflonline.ufl.edu/>

STUDENT FEEDBACK AND COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

DISCLAIMER

This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.