


# AGE OF DINOSAURS

GLY1102 FALL 2020 UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA


## CONTACT

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See Canvas for link.

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## COURSE MATERIALS:

### Access the course at:

<https://elearning.ufl.edu>

**Text:** Dinosaurs, The Textbook,  
6<sup>th</sup> Ed. by Spencer Lucas.

## KEY DATES

**Exam 1:** Sept 30 - Oct 2

**Exam 2:** Nov 4-6

**Exam 3:** Dec 7-9

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

## COURSE MATERIAL:

The textbook for this course is *Dinosaurs: The Textbook*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition by Spencer Lucas. The science of paleontology is constantly updating our understanding of dinosaurs, so please find the 6<sup>th</sup> edition and not an earlier version. You may purchase it through the UF bookstore, or rent/buy through 3<sup>rd</sup> party sellers such as Amazon. Order your book as soon as possible so you will have it when classes begin.

## COURSE-RELATED QUESTIONS:

Please post general questions about the course in the course in the Discussion Forum so the question can be answered for everyone. Before posting, please check to see if your question has already been asked and answered. For personal questions, use email or Canvas messaging. For questions about grading, please contact your TA using the contact info on this page. For accommodations and other personal non-grading related questions, please contact me by email or talk to me during office hours.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

**Computer & Internet:** Access to and on-going use of a computer and internet is required. Course work will require use of a computer and all assignments will be turned in online through the Canvas course page. For additional information on UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences policy regarding computer requirements you can visit: <http://it.clas.ufl.edu/policies/student-computer-requirement/>

## COURSE DETAILS

**Prerequisites and Course Info:** This is an introductory course with no prerequisites and 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. But to understand dinosaurs and their place in Earth’s history, we will also explore the basics of geology including how the Earth changes over time and how rocks and fossils form. To understand dinosaurs as living organisms, we will cover biology basics including organization and classification of taxa, anatomy and ecosystems. 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.
- Understanding the process of scientific inquiry and refine critical thinking skills.
- Improving scientific literacy by strengthening knowledge of the concepts and terminology used in scientific research and news articles.

**Course Responsibilities:** You will need to have regular internet access and the 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 is one week long and 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; sometimes both. 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 at least three times a week. It is the only way I can directly communicate with you in an online class. Keeping up with Discussion boards is highly encouraged.

**Course Schedule:** This course has 10 modules and we will cover two modules a week. Each “week” opens and closes on a Monday. New Modules open at noon, prior modules close at 11:59 pm (US Eastern Time) with the exception of the last week, which ends on a Friday. The best place to find any updates or changes to the course schedule is on the class Canvas page.

Schedule by Week		
Week	Modules	Textbook Chapter
1.) 8/31-9/8*	Start Here Module & Module 1: Introduction to Geology and Paleontology	Online resources
2.) 9/8-9/14	Module 2: Fossils and Paleoenvironments	Ch 3
3.) 9/14-9/21	Module 3: Evolution, Phylogeny and Classification	Ch 2
4.) 9/21-9/28	Module 4: The Origin of Dinosaurs	Ch 4

5.) 9/28-10/5	Exam 1: Modules 1-4. Exam window is Sept 30 - Oct 2	
6.) 10/5-10/12	Module 5: Sharp Teeth and Quick Feet - Theropods	Ch 5
7.) 10/12-10/19	Module 6: The Giants – Saruopodomorphs	Ch 6
8.) 10/19-10/26	Module 7: Duckbills and Crests – Ornithopods	Ch 7
9.) 10/26-11/2	Module 8: Armor Up! – Thyreophorans	Ch 8
10.) 11/2-11/9	Exam 2: Modules 5-8. Exam window is Nov 11-13	
11.) 11/9-11/16	Module 9: Boneheads & Beaks - Marginocephalians	Ch 9
12.) 11/16-11/23	Module 10: The Mesozoic World	Ch 10
13.) 11/23-11/30	Module 11: Life as a Dinosaur – Behavior and lifestyles	Ch 12 &13
14.) 11/30-12/7	Module 12: The Survivors – Extinction and Beyond	Ch 15&16
15.) 12/7-12/9	Exam 3: Modules 9-12. Exam window is Dec 7-9	

\*Modules typically start and end on Mondays, but 9/7 is a holiday.

## COURSE ACTIVITY CATEGORIES

**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. Your lowest assignment grade will be dropped. Assignments count for 30% of your grade.

**Quizzes:** Each Module has a quiz worth 100 points that draws from all assigned material – lecture, assigned videos and readings. Module Quizzes are not timed or proctored, and you have two chances on each quiz. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes are worth 30% of your grade.

**Discussions:** For each module that contains a Discussion Activity (typically 4-5), you will be expected to post a thoughtful, detailed response according to the Substantive Post Guidelines and Discussion Rubric on the class website. Deadlines for discussion posts are listed on the course calendar. It is easy to forget to do follow-up replies, 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. Discussions count for 20% of your grade.

**Exams:** We will have 3 Exams. Exam 1 covers Modules 1-4 (400 pts), Exam 2 covers Modules 5-8 (400 pts), and Exam 3 covers Modules 9-12 (400 pts). Exams are 20% of your overall grade and proctored with Honorlock. Here are some key points about Honorlock Proctoring:

- You do not need to make a separate account or pre-schedule you exam.
- You will need a computer with reliable internet access, a webcam and microphone. Honorlock works best in the Chrome internet browser.
- Take your exam in a well-lit room and make sure the primary source of light is not coming from behind you.
- You will be required to show picture identification to your proctor at the time of your exam. Approved forms of identification include, but are not limited to, a driver's license, military identification card, passport, or school-issued identification card.

- You will not be video recorded during your exam but will need video capabilities to show your id. Internet browsing will be disabled while your exam is open, so it is important that any notes you wish to access are not stored on online or on cloud storage.

## 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:

Assignments	30% of total grade
Module Quizzes	30% of total grade
Discussions	20% of total grade
Exams	20% of total grade

### Grading Scale for Overall Course Grade:

Course Points Earned	% Grade	Letter Grade	GPA Value
5400	90 +	A	4.0
5100	85-90	B+	3.5
4800	80-84.9	B	3.0
4500	75-79.9	C+	2.5
4200	70-74.9	C	2.0
3900	65-69.9	D+	1.5
3540	59-65.9	D	1
3480	< 58.9	E	0

**Late work:** Late Assignments can be turned in up to a week late. Discussions and Exams are not accepted late without approval from the instructor.

## ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSION & RESPECT

**Respect & Inclusion:** In this classroom (physical or virtual), everyone should feel welcome to share their thoughts in a respectful way. Treat you classmates the way you would like to be treated. You deserve to be called by the name you prefer and have me pronounce it correctly. Please correct me if I write your name (or pronouns) incorrectly! If something in the course material, instruction or class interactions make you feel excluded or uncomfortable, please let me know so I can address it. Please see the Netiquette section under “UF Policies” for more details on how to interact respectfully online.

**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 by computer at: [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) and provide appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester, as *accommodations are not retroactive.*

**My Statement on Accessibility:** We all learn differently. You don’t have to have a formally recognized disability to find yourself having difficulty with some aspect of the college learning environment. For example, colorblindness is not typically recognized in formal accommodations, but very much impacts a student’s ability to process visual information. Please let me know if something in the course material presents a barrier to

your full participation in the class so we can work together to find a reasonable solution – *even if you don't have, or don't yet have, a formal accommodation letter.*

**Religious Observances:** 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 two weeks in advance of the missed class days so accommodations to be made for missed work. Do not wait until after you have missed assignments to ask for an exception, as these requests may not be honored.

## 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/>.

## UF POLICIES

**University Policy on Academic Misconduct:** Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

**Netiquette – Communication Courtesy:** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. More information at: <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

**UF Online Handbook:** Available at: <http://handbook.ufonline.ufl.edu/>

## NEED HELP?

**Technical Support:** For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning, please contact the UF Help Desk: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>, or (352) 392-4357 and select option 2. If you miss a deadline due to technical issues, requests for extensions or make-up activities **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from The Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You **MUST** e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

**Help from me and/or TA:** While we have short windows of time listed for office hours, we are happy to set up a virtual chat at another time. Office hours are for your benefit - ask questions, get assignment help, discuss geoscience degrees and career options, etc. You may also email me, but please check to make sure your question hasn't been answered already in the Announcements or Class Questions discussion board before reaching out. For questions about grading, please contact the TA first. They are also a great resource for questions about the material.

**Other Resources:** For support regarding Counseling and Wellness, disability, documenting student concerns and complaints, and a link to the Library Help Desk, please see: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help>.