

AGE OF DINOSAURS

GLY1102 – Summer A – 2024 – University of Florida

CONTACT

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**See Canvas for Zoom links. We will enable auto-captioning, please let me know if you have other access needs.*

COURSE MATERIALS:

Access the course page at:

<https://elearning.ufl.edu>

Text: Dinosaurs, The Textbook, 6th Ed. by Spencer Lucas.

KEY DATES

Exam 1 Window: May 23-24th

Exam 2 Window: June 6-7th

Exam 2 Window: June 20-21st

Initial Discussions Post - Due Dates

Discussion 1: May 15th

Discussion 2: May 29th

Discussion 3: June 5th

Discussion 4: June 12th

Welcome to Age of Dinosaurs! In this asynchronous online course, we will explore some fundamental concepts of geology, biology, and dinosaurs of all shapes and sizes. Please read through the syllabus for information to help you succeed in this course.

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. The first module'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.

COURSE-RELATED QUESTIONS:

Please post general questions about the course in the general Discussion Forum so the questions can be answered for everyone. Before posting your thread, please check to see if your question has already been asked and answered. For questions about grading, please contact the TA first. For accommodations and other personal questions you don't want to post on the discussion board, please contact me via Canvas messaging, email, or during office hours.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Computer & Internet: Coursework will require a computer and internet access. Students will turn in all assignments 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 introductory course has no prerequisites. It satisfies the GenEd Physical Science (P) and Biological Science (B) course requirements and is worth 3 credit hours. This online course is 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 the 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 Schedule: The summer version of the course moves quickly, and we will cover two modules each week. Each “week” opens and closes on a Friday. The Start Here module and Modules 1 & 2 open on Monday, May 14th, and close on Monday (5/20) to give you some extra time. New Modules open at noon, and 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 we will make an announcement if the schedule changes.

Dates	NOTE: This schedule is tentative and subject to change.	Assignments Given (each has separate due dates; look on Canvas)
Week 1 (5/13-5/20) *		
May 14	Start Here Module 1: Introduction to Geology & Paleontology	<i>Quiz 1, Module 1 Assignment, & Discussion 1</i>
May 16	Module 2: Fossils and Paleoenvironments	<i>Quiz 2, Module 2 Assignment</i>
Week 2 (5/17-5/24)		
May 21	Module 3: Evolution, Phylogeny and Classification	<i>Quiz 3, Module 3 Assignment</i>
May 23	Module 4: The Origin of Dinosaurs	<i>Quiz 4,</i>
Exam 1 – Modules 1 through 4 – Open May 23-24		
Week 3 (5/24-5/31)		

May 28	Module 5: Sharp Teeth and Quick Feet - Theropods	<i>Quiz 5, Module 5 Assignment, Discussion 2</i>
May 30	Module 6: The Giants – Saruopodomorphs	<i>Quiz 6, Module 6 Assignment</i>
Week 4 (5/31-6/7)		
June 4	Module 7: Duckbills and Crests – Ornithopods	<i>Quiz 7, Discussion 3</i>
June 6	Module 8: Armor Up! – Thyreophorans	<i>Quiz 8</i>
Exam 2 – Modules 5 through 8 – Open June 6-7		
Week 5 (6/7-6/14)		
June 11	Module 9: Boneheads & Beaks - Marginocephalians	<i>Quiz 9, Module 9 Assignment, Discussion 4</i>
June 13	Module 10: The Mesozoic World	<i>Quiz 10</i>
Week 6 (6/14-6/21)		
June 18	Module 11: Life as a Dinosaur	<i>Quiz 11</i>
June 20	Module 12: The Survivors – Extinction and Beyond	<i>Quiz 12</i>
Exam 3 – Modules 9 through 12 – Open June 20-21		

*After the first week, all weeks (modules) close on Fridays – because Friday, June 21st is the last day of the course.

Course Responsibilities: You must 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 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 are consistent with university policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>
- Check the announcements and your e-mail regularly - at least three times a week. 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 (and fun – that’s where some of the best conversations in the course happen!)

COURSE ACTIVITY TYPES

Assignments: Half of the modules have lab Assignments. All module assignments are due no later than 11:59 pm on the last day of the week, which is usually a Friday. Assignments are worth 10 points.

Assignments count for 20% of your grade.

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. I encourage you to use both chances even if you are happy with your initial grade.

Quizzes are worth 30% of your grade.

Discussions: This is your chance to thoughtfully engage in topics that are being actively debated or discussed in the world of dinosaur paleontology. We expect you to post a thoughtful, detailed response according to the class website’s Substantive Post Guidelines and Discussion Rubrics. Deadlines for

discussion posts are listed on the course calendar. Initial posts and follow-up posts are due within a day of the initial post. It can be easy to forget to submit posts, so please keep an eye on due dates! Full participation in a Discussion, as outlined in the instructions for each Discussion, is worth 25 points. The summer session has four Discussion assignments, and for Discussions 2 and 3, you can choose between two topics.

Discussions are worth 20% of your grade.

Exams: There are 3 Exams. Exam 1 covers Modules 1-4, Exam 2 covers Modules 5-8, and Exam 3 covers Modules 9-12. Each exam has 15 questions from each module and is worth a total of 60 points.

Exams are 30% of your total grade and are proctored with Honorlock.

Here are some key points about Honorlock Proctoring:

- You do not need to make a separate account or pre-schedule your exam; just log in to Canvas and start the exam when you are ready.
- You will need a computer with reliable internet access and a webcam. You will not be video recorded during your exam but will need video capabilities to show a photo ID to the proctor.
- You will be required to show picture identification at the start 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 can use your notes for exams, but internet browsing will be disabled while your exam is open, so any digital notes you wish to access must be 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:

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

Late work: Assignments and Quizzes can be turned in until the associated exam with no penalty. Module 12's assignments are due on the last day of the course – there is no cushion there for the summer course, so plan to turn them in on time or early. Discussions are not accepted late without approval from the TA, and exams require approval from the instructor, so do your best to do them on time!

Grading Scale for Overall Course Grade:

A	93-100	4.00	C	73-75.9	2.00
A-	90-92.9	3.67	C-	70-72.9	1.67
B+	86-89.9	3.33	D+	66-69.9	1.33
B	83-85.9	3.00	D	63-65.9	1.00
B-	80-82.9	2.67	D-	60-62.9	0.67
C+	76-79.9	2.33	E	0-59.9	0.00

ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSION & RESPECT

Respect & Inclusion: In this classroom (physical or virtual), everyone should feel welcome to share their thoughts in a respectful way. Treat your classmates the way you would like to be treated. You deserve to be called by the name and pronouns you prefer and with the correct pronunciation. UF has not enabled the feature that lets users specify pronouns in Canvas, so please correct me if I write or say your pronouns incorrectly! If something in the course material, instruction, or class interactions makes you feel excluded or uncomfortable, please let me know so I can address it. 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 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. 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 have difficulty with some aspects of the college learning environment. For example, colorblindness is not typically recognized in formal accommodations but greatly 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 course 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*. And please contact me during the semester if your accommodation needs to change.

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 making up some assignments may no longer be feasible.

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 ensure they understand the UF Student Honor code: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>, which is especially important in an online course.

Netiquette – Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected not to share login information and to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. More information at: https://www.cise.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CISE_Netiquette_Guide.pdf

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

NEED HELP?

Help from me and/or TA: Office hours are for your benefit - ask questions, get assignment help, discuss geoscience degrees and career options, etc. Office hours are your chance to interact with your instructors in real-time. We are happy to set up meetings at other times if the office hours don't work with your schedule. You may also email us, but please check to ensure 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 (feel free to cc me on emails to TAs if you like). The TA is also an excellent resource for questions about the material.

Technical Support: For issues with technical difficulties in E-learning, please contact the UF Help Desk at <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 should 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 due date extension or make-up.

Mental Health and well-being: Sometimes, being a college student or just a human being can be hard. If you are mentally or emotionally struggling for any reason, you can contact the [Counseling and Wellness Center](#). They have one-click access to people who can help you connect to the right resources for your situation. If these struggles are negatively impacting your performance in any of your courses, I encourage you to contact the [Dean of Students Care Area](#) to connect with a support team that can help with temporary accommodations, authorization to make up missing coursework, etc. Additionally, if you are comfortable doing so, please reach out to me, and I will provide any accommodations in this course that I can.

Other Resources: Didn't see the kind of help you were looking for listed here? Links to various support resources for online students are consolidated on this page: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help>.

That was a lot of info - thanks for reading all the way to the end!