


AGE OF DINOSAURS


GLY1102 SPRING 2020 UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA


CONTACT

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Welcome to Age of Dinosaurs! In this course we explore the fundamental concepts of geology and geologic time, environments and climate cycles of the past, and of course dinosaurs of all shapes and sizes. 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*, 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. There are very inexpensive options available on Amazon and other 3rd party sellers. Order your book as soon as possible so you will have it when classes begin.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Access the course at:

<https://elearning.ufl.edu>

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

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 you question has already been asked and answered. Personal question should be sent through the course messaging system by email, or during office hours. Please contact the TA for grading-related questions. For accommodations and other individual questions, please contact me. The link for Virtual office hours via Zoom is listed on Canvas.

KEY DATES

Exam 1: Feb 6, 7 or 11th

Exam 2: Mar 26, 27 or 31st

Exam 3: Apr 25, 27 or 28th

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Computer & Internet: Access to and on-going use of a computer is required for all students. Competency in the basic use of a computer 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 a GenEd Physical Science (P) and Biological Science (B) course. This is an introductory course with no prerequisites. Credit hours: 3.

Course Summary & Goals: The focus of this course is dinosaurs. But to understand dinosaurs and their place in geologic history, we will also explore the basics of how the Earth changes over time, how rocks and fossils form and the science of reconstructing ancient ecosystems and climates. To accomplish this, we will establish foundational knowledge about geology and the scientific process as we learn about dinosaurs. The goals of this course include:

- Introduce the science of Paleontology through an examination of dinosaurs and other Mesozoic life.
- Learning 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.
- Understanding the process of scientific inquiry and refine critical thinking skills.
- Improving scientific literacy - the concepts and terminology needed to understand science stories in the news, and best practices for sorting through fact vs. fiction when it comes to dinosaur info.

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 includes reading assignments from the textbook and other sources, video lectures with accompanying PowerPoint presentations (available as .pdf files), a module quiz, and some combination of assignments and discussions (either or 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 course announcements and class e-mail at least three times a week. It is the only way I have to communicate with you in an online class, so it is very important.

Course Schedule: This course has 12 weekly modules. Each module opens and closes on a Tuesday. The course Calendar on our Canvas page has the exact due dates for each activity.

Schedule by Week		
Module	Topics	Text Chapter
Start Here & Module 1: 1/6-1/14	Start Here Module Introduction to Geology and Paleontology	Ch 1 and Online resources
Module 2: 1/14-1/21	Evolution, Phylogeny and Classification	Ch 2
Module 3: 1/21-1/28	Fossils and Paleoenvironments	Ch 3 & 12
Module 4: 1/28-2/4	The Origins of Dinosaurs	Ch 4
2/4-2/11	Exam 1: Feb 6,7, or 11	Ch 1, 2,3,12 & 4
Module 5: 2/11-2/18	Therapods	Ch 5

Module 6: 2/18-2/25	Sauropodomorphs	Ch 6
Module 7: 2/25-2/28	Ornithopods	Ch 7
SPRING BREAK		
Module 8: 3/10-3/17	Stegosaurs and Ankylosaurs	Ch 8
Module 9: 3/17-3/24	Ceratopsians and Pachycephalosaurs	Ch 9
3/24-3/31	Exam 2: March 26, 27, or 31	Ch 5,6,7,8 & 9
Module 10: 3/31-4/7	Mesozoic World	Ch 10
Module 11: 4/7-4/14	Dinosaur Biology and Behavior	Ch 13 & 14
Module 12: 4/14-4/21	Dinosaur extinctions and modern descendants	Ch 15 and 16
4/25-4/28	Exam 3: April 25, 27 or 28	Ch 10, 13, 14, 15, & 16

COURSE ACTIVITY CATEGORIES

Assignments: Each Module has associated Lab assignments. All module assignments are due no later than 11:55 on the last day of the module. Assignment types vary, and are worth 50 to 100 points each, depending on the level of effort involved. Assignments count for 30% of your overall grade.

Quizzes: There are 12 quizzes for the course, one for each section. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester, even if it is a zero. This leave 10 quizzes that count towards your grade. The quizzes need to be completed by 11:55 PM on the last day of each module. Each quiz is worth 100 points each. Module Quizzes are not timed or proctored. Quizzes are worth 20% of your grade.

Discussions: Online discussion will be used for further exploration of some topics throughout the course. For each module that contains a Discussion Forum, you will be expected to post a thoughtful, detailed response (i.e., "yes," "no," "I agree," or "I disagree" answer is not sufficient) according to the Substantive Post Guidelines and Discussion rubric on the class website. Deadlines for discussion posts are listed on the course calendar. When a module includes a Discussion, the initial post will be due around the middle of the module (3-4 days before the module end) with a follow-up response being due two days later. Participation in each Discussion is worth 50 points and Discussion participation counts for 20% of your grade.

Exams: There will be 3 exams throughout the semester. Each one covers 4-5 chapters and their accompanying material. Each exam is worth 1,000 points each, and 10% of your overall grade in the course. You will need to schedule each of your exams on ProctorU. Directions for doing so are on the course website in the Start Here module. Here are some key points about using ProctorU for exams:

- If you already have an account from another course, there is no need to register again.
- You will need to take the test on a computer with reliable internet access, a webcam, and some sort of speaker/mic setup.
- You will sign up for your test times during the first few weeks of class. The sooner you sign up, the more choices you have for available time slots.

- Once you sign up for a time, you should receive a confirmation e-mail. If you do not receive the confirmation e-mail, you should contact ProctorU (not me) immediately.
- If you make a last-minute schedule change with ProctorU, you will incur an additional fee.
- 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.

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	20% of total grade
Discussions	20% of total grade
Exams (10% each)	30% 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 for a 5% grade penalty. Discussions, Quizzes 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 don't let me keep saying 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/ 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 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: While I have a short window of time listed for office hours, I will be in my office most weekdays and you can always set up an appointment to make sure I am in. Office hours are for your benefit - ask questions, get assignment help, discuss geoscience degrees and career options, etc. If you are on campus, stop by and say hello! If you are off campus, feel free to send me an email, or we can set up a video chat. I also have a small no-questions-asked food pantry for students just inside my door.

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>.