



AGE OF DINOSAURS


GLY1102 SPRING 2021 UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

CONTACT


Dr. Anita Marshall (she/her)


 anita.marshall@ufl.edu

 Williamson Hall 255
off campus f2020


 Virtual Office*: Mon 10:00 am
-noon EST or by appt.


TA1: Sarah Lynn Redding
(she/her)

 s.redding@ufl.edu

 Virtual Office*: Tues 3-4:00
p.m., or by appt.

TA2: Jing Lyu (she/her)

 jinglyu@ufl.edu

 Virtual Office*: TBA

**See Canvas for Zoom links.*

COURSE MATERIALS:

Access the course at:

<https://elearning.ufl.edu>

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

KEY DATES

Exam 1 Window: Feb 10-12

Exam 2 Window: Mar 17-19

Exam 3 Window: Apr 19-21

Welcome to Age of Dinosaurs! In this asynchronous online course we will 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 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. You may purchase it through the UF bookstore or rent/buy through 3rd party sellers such as Amazon. The first week's reading material is online to give you time to get the book, but you will need it weekly for the rest of the course.

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 assigned TA. 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: Course work will require use of a computer and internet. 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 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.

Course Schedule: This course has 12 modules, and we will cover one module each week. 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, subject to change		
Week	Modules	Textbook Chapter
1.) 1/11 - 1/19*	Start Here Module & Module 1: Introduction to Geology and Paleontology	Online resources
2.) 1/19 - 1/25	Module 2: Fossils and Paleoenvironments	Ch 3
3.) 1/25 - 2/1	Module 3: Evolution, Phylogeny and Classification	Ch 2
4.) 2/1 - 2/8	Module 4: The Origin of Dinosaurs	Ch 4

5.) 2/8 - 2/15	Exam 1: Modules 1-4. Exam window is Feb 10-12.	
6.) 2/15 - 2/22	Module 5: Sharp Teeth and Quick Feet - Theropods	Ch 5
7.) 2/22 - 3/1	Module 6: The Giants – Sauropodomorphs	Ch 6
8.) 3/1 – 3/8	Module 7: Duckbills and Crests – Ornithopods	Ch 7
9.) 3/8 – 3/15	Module 8: Armor Up! – Thyreophorans	Ch 8
10.) 3/15 – 3/22	Exam 2: Modules 5-8. Exam window is March 17-19.	
11.) 3/22 – 3/29	Module 9: Boneheads & Beaks - Marginocephalians	Ch 9
12.) 3/29 – 4/5	Module 10: The Mesozoic World	Ch 10
13.) 4/5 – 4/12	Module 11: Life as a Dinosaur – Behavior and lifestyles	Ch 12 &13
14.) 4/12 – 4/19	Module 12: The Survivors – Extinction and Beyond	Ch 15&16
15.) 4/19 – 4/21	Exam 3: Modules 9-12. Exam window is April 19 – 21.	

*Modules typically start and end on Mondays, but 1/18 is a holiday.

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. 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 module material – lecture, other 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: Some modules include a Discussion Activity. 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 Rubric 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. Your lowest grade will be dropped. 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. You will not be video recorded during your exam but will need video capabilities to show your id.
- Honorlock works best in the Chrome internet browser.
- You will be required to show picture identification 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.
- 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 device 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	30% of total grade
Module Quizzes	30% of total grade
Discussions	20% of total grade
Exams	20% of total grade

Late work: Lab Assignments and Quizzes can be turned in up to one week late with no penalty. Discussions and Exams are not accepted late without approval from the instructor.

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

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 you prefer and with the correct pronunciation. UF has not enabled the feature that enables users to 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 make 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 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 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 don't be afraid to contact me during the semester if your accommodation needs change.

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: <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 to not share login information and 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 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: We are happy to set up a virtual chat at another time if you can't meet during office hours. Office hours are for your benefit - ask questions, get assignment help, discuss geoscience degrees and career options, etc. You may also email us, 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 (feel free to cc me on emails to Tas if you like). TAs 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>.