


AGE OF DINOSAURS


GLY1102 Fall 2021 University of Florida

CONTACT


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**See Canvas for Zoom links. Auto-captioning enabled, please let us 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 Open: Sep 23-27

Exam 2 Open: Oct 28–Nov 1

Exam 3 Open: Dec 6-8

Welcome to Age of Dinosaurs! In this asynchronous online course we will explore some fundamental concepts of geology and 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.

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.

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 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 use email, Canvas messaging, or a private meeting.

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 that 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 Schedule: 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 be made if the schedule changes.

Schedule by Week	Modules	Textbook Chapter
1.) 8/23 – 8/30	Start Here Module & Module 1: Introduction to Geology and Paleontology	Online resources
2.) 8/30 – 9/6	Module 2: Fossils and Paleoenvironments	Ch 3
3.) 9/7* – 9/13	Module 3: Evolution, Phylogeny and Classification	Ch 2
4.) 9/13 - 9/20	Module 4: The Origin of Dinosaurs	Ch 4
5.) 9/20 – 9/27	Exam 1: Modules 1-4. Exam window is Sept 23-27	
6.) 9/27 - 10/4	Module 5: Sharp Teeth and Quick Feet - Theropods	Ch 5
7.) 10/4 - 10/11	Module 6: The Giants – Saruopodomorphs	Ch 6
8.) 10/11 - 10/18	Module 7: Duckbills and Crests – Ornithopods	Ch 7
9.) 10/18 – 10/25	Module 8: Armor Up! – Thyreophorans	Ch 8
10.) 10/25 - 11/1	Exam 2: Modules 5-8. Exam window is Oct 28 - Nov 1	
11.) 11/1 - 11/8	Module 9: Boneheads & Beaks - Marginocephalians	Ch 9
12.) 11/8 - 11/15	Module 10: The Mesozoic World	Ch 10
13.) 11/15 - 11/22	Module 11: Life as a Dinosaur – Behavior and lifestyles	Ch 12 &13
14.) 11/22 - 11/29	THANKSGIVING BREAK, no assignments due.	
15.) 11/29 – 12/6	Module 12: The Survivors – Extinction and Beyond	Ch 15&16
15.) 12/6 – 12/8	Exam 3: Modules 9-12. Exam window is Dec 6-8	

*Modules typically start and end on Mondays, but 9/6 is a holiday, so Week 3 will close on a Tuesday, 9/7. Late work deadline is NOT moved back a day; the late work cutoff for Week 3 is 9/13

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

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 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 - 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: 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: 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. It is easy to forget to do initial posts, so please keep an eye on due dates! Full participation, as outlined in the instructions for each Discussion, is worth 50 points, and Discussions are worth 20% of your total grade. Your lowest discussion grade drops.

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 300 points. Exams are 20% 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 you exam.
- 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 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 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:

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. The one exception is Module 10, where assignments are due the last day of the course – there is no cushion there for the summer course. Discussions and Exams are not accepted late without approval from the instructor, so do your best to do those on time!

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 you 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 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 contact me during the semester if your accommodation needs 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 it may no longer be feasible to make-up some assignments.

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 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 hour time doesn't work with your schedule. 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.

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 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 course work, 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 a variety of 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!