

# Evolution of Earth and Life in North America (GLY 3105C) Syllabus Fall 2024



## Contact Information

*Instructor:* Dr. Amy Williams  
*Office:* Williamson Hall 270  
*Department Mailbox:* WM 241

*TAs:* Phylindia Gant  
Lydia Kivrak

*Office Hours:* Hours will be scheduled the first week of class after surveying students for the most optimal time, otherwise via Zoom and by appointment

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*Phone:* 352-273-1284

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Primary General Education Designation: Physical Sciences (P) ([area objectives available here](#))  
A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.

## Required Texts

- ❖ Lecture - *Evolution of the Earth* (8<sup>th</sup> Ed) by Donald Prothero and Robert Dott
- ❖ Lab assignments will be accessible on Canvas

## Catalog Course Description

Advanced examination of the geologic history of planet earth with an emphasis on North America.  
*Prerequisites:* GLY 2010C or GLY 2030C.

## Course Objectives

- Identify and explain the physical and biological history of planet Earth based on the broad survey we will complete during the semester.
- Explain the role of plate tectonics on the development of the landscape, the evolution of life, and climate dynamics.
- Present in some detail the geologic record of North America while still examining major events of other continents and their relationship (if any) to those of North America.
- Discuss development of the modern geologic landscape of North America.

## Grading

### Grading Scheme:

	A = 94.0-100%	A- = 90.0-93.9%
B+ = 87.0-89.9%	B = 84.0-86.9%	B- = 80.0-83.9%
C+ = 77.0-79.9%	C = 76.9-70.0%	
D+ = 67.0-69.9%	D = 64.0-60.0%	
E = below 60.0%		

NOTE: Grades lower than a C (i.e. lower than 70%) do not count for major, minor, Gen Ed, or college credit.

The final course grade will be calculated using the following system:

<b>EXAM 1</b>	15%
<b>EXAM 2</b>	15%
<b>EXAM 3</b>	15%

<b>EXAM 4 (FINAL)</b>	15%
<b>SUMMARY QUIZZES</b>	10%
<b>LAB</b>	30%
	<b>100% TOTAL</b>

More information on grades and grading policies is here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>.

**Exams:** Exams will cover material from lectures and assigned readings. Exams may not be made up without an excused absence. Exams are open for 4 days to provide an opportunity for you to schedule the exam when it works best for your schedule.

**Summary Quizzes:** Brief, 10 question summary quizzes are available on Canvas for every module in the course. The quizzes are meant to reinforce the video lectures and provide example concepts and questions that may appear on the exams. This course is partially self-paced but because I would like to encourage folks to work through the modules on a reasonable schedule, **quizzes will be due the Sunday after the module is started.** Quizzes may be retaken an unlimited number of times and the highest score will be recorded. No scores will count for credit if submitted after the last day of class (prior to finals week).

**Lab:** Laboratory activities will be completed using assignments posted on Canvas. **Laboratory activities are due on Sunday evenings on the week they are due. Late labs will be docked 10%** for every day they are late, and no scores will count for credit if submitted after the last day of class (prior to finals week).

**Lecture Schedule:** Although this course is partially self-paced, I recommend you use the schedule for lecture topics, reading assignments, and exams below to stay on track.

### Class Policies

**Course communication:** Necessary course materials beyond the textbook, lab manual, and fossil kits, will be available on Canvas. You are responsible for anything sent by the instructor via email or posted on Canvas. All email communication will be sent to university email accounts; you are responsible for checking your university email account at least daily. In most cases allow 24 hours for an email response from me (and longer over weekends).

I am happy to meet during virtual office hours if you have questions, and if those times do not work, please e-mail me to set up another time for us to meet. You are also welcome to email me with questions. *To help me distinguish your emails from those coming in from other classes, add "GLY 3105" to the start of your subject line. Please use best practices in your email to me (and all faculty)—this includes signing off with your name, using full sentences, and not using text shorthand. This conveys an important sense of professionalism that is worth practicing for future jobs.*

**Virtual Classes and Privacy:** Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live (if synchronous sessions are held as part of the course). Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate verbally are agreeing to have their voices recorded.

If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to participate/ complete all lectures, labs, exams, and activities as scheduled. Students are also advised to read each assignment prior to its discussion in class/lab. I

will not provide notes or a summary of the class. There are no make-up exams except for documented medical or personal emergencies. If this situation is applicable to you, contact me as soon as possible via Canvas, email: amywilliams1@ufl.edu, or notify the Department Administrative Assistant (352-392-2231).

**Late or Missed Assignments:** *There will be no make-up assignments without either prior approval or an official documented excuse.* Late labs will be penalized 10% if they are turned in after the due date, and 10% more for each subsequent day—no exceptions. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

**University Honesty Policy:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from the course with the grade of W at any time prior to and including November 22, 2024.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)). See the “[Get Started With the DRC](#)” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

**Use of Artificial Intelligence:** Students may use AI and natural language processing tools to enhance their understanding of the course content. Students should be aware of the potential biases and pitfalls of AI, and its potential to both aid and suppress learning. Students will not be penalized for using these tools in their exploration of course content but **students may NOT use AI and natural language processing tools to complete exams or laboratory assignments.** Students are responsible for ensuring that they are providing assignment responses that are high-quality and correct.

AI programs are not a replacement for human creativity and critical thinking. It is the student’s responsibility to review and ensure the appropriateness and accuracy of assignment submissions. Failure to cite and correctly edit work will result in a reduced grade and could be referred to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution in consistent or severe cases.

Students should consider the potential biases and implications of AI and make efforts to mitigate any discriminatory or harmful effects. When using AI tools, students should ensure that they comply with the respective licenses and terms of use set by the tool developers. Students should properly attribute any resources used from external sources, including AI libraries, frameworks, or pre-trained models.

**Campus Resources: Health and Wellness:**

**U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

**Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

**University Police Department:** Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

**UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608;

**GatorWell Health Promotion Services:** For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

**Academic Resources:**

<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

**[Career Connections Center](#):** Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

**[Library Support](#):** Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email [ask@ufl.libanswers.com](mailto:ask@ufl.libanswers.com) for more information.

**[Teaching Center](#):** 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

**[Writing Studio](#):** Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

**Academic Complaints:** Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information](#).

**[Enrollment Management Complaints \(Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions\)](#)**.

**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/>.

**In-Class Recording:** Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student

participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

### **Tentative Schedule Attached as Separate PDF**

**\*\* This schedule is subject to change with appropriate prior notification. \*\***