Course Syllabus

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GLY3603C Paleontology

Scroll down to bottom of Syllabus to view assignment due dates

Instructor:

Dr. Anthony Pivarunas

Department of Geological Sciences

Box 112120 Williamson Hall

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-2120

Office Location: Office hours are held via Canvas Conference.

Office Hours: By request.

Email: Use the Conversations (Inbox) tool within Canvas.

Note: For information on how to use the Canvas Conversations (Inbox), view the Conversations (Links to an external site.) section of the Student Guide (Links to an external site.).

Lab Instructor:

Dr. Anthony Pivarunas

Questions:

1. Check the Syllabus and Start Here section to make sure your question is not already answered.
2. If you can't find the answer to your question there, check the Course Questions Discussion Board to see if anyone else had the same question.
3. If your question has not already been asked, post the question to the Course Questions Discussion Board.

If you are experiencing technical difficulties, follow the instructions for Technical Help in the Start Here section.

If you have a personal question, follow the instructions for Personal Questions below.

Please allow 24 hours for a response. Questions posted over the weekend may not receive a response until the beginning of the following week.

Personal Questions:

If you have a question that is of a personal nature or one that concerns grades, contact your instructor or TA through Canvas.

Note: If you are asking a question about information that is already contained in the Start Here section or Syllabus, be sure to state what is unclear about the existing information. Otherwise, you will be referred to the handbook and syllabus.

Important: Dr. Pivarunas will not answer email sent to his UF email address. All email must be sent in Canvas.

Office Hours:

Office hours are by request. Request a conference or leave a phone number for a call back. The instructor will email you to arrange the conference. For Email see Canvas.

Course Objectives:

When you complete this course, you will be able to:

- Describe the nature of fossilization and their environments of preservation.
- Explain evolutionary theory, the species concept, patterns of evolution, and causes of extinction.
- Explain methods of biostratigraphic-magnetostratigraphic-chemostratigraphic correlation.
- Analyze taxonomic principles.
- Describe the biology (if extant) and fossil characteristics of all Paleozoic-Recent invertebrate phyla.
- Examine the nature of the invertebrate assemblages of the Phanerozoic and assess their environmental and stratigraphic significance.
- Identify key ways to use fossil assemblages to establish a rapid age determination of rocks and sediments.
- Describe the origin and changes in reef assemblages, their manifestation in the geologic record, and economic importance.
- Describe the morphologic characteristics of all major microfossil groups.
- Explain the usefulness of microfossils in stratigraphic and paleoenvironmental analysis.

Start Here Module:

Your first source of information for answering your questions is the Start Here module. Always check this module before emailing us with your questions.

Exams & Grading:

All three lecture exams are taken online with a proctoring service called ProctorU. See the Start Here: ProctorU page for more information.

Lab exercises will be submitted in digital form and in some cases must be scanned and uploaded to Canvas as a PDF or Word Document. A much more detailed discussion of exams and grading occurs within the Start Here module.

Your grade is based upon:

- Lecture Grades (60%)
    - Three lecture exams (non-cumulative), 20% each
- Lab Grades (40%)
    - Lab exercises (14 exercises, most counting the same toward 40% of your course grade)

Extra Credit:

You can earn 3% extra credit (added to your overall grade) if you complete the Syllabus and Start Here Quiz and the Register-ProctorU assignment prior to the deadlines listed in your Course Calendar.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade

- A= >90%
- B+=87.5-90%
- B=80-87.5%
- C+=77.5-80%
- C=70-77.5%
- D+=67.5-70%
- D=60-67.5%
- E=<60

Textbook and Fossil Kit:

The majority of the course lecture material for this class is in your Power Points, videos, and the textbook:

Introduction to Paleobiology and the Fossil Record by Michael J. Benton and David A.T. Harper; ISBN-10: 1405141573 ISBN-13: 978-1405141574; Wiley-Blackwell (1st edition)

There is no lab manual. The text available in Module 3 and your textbook are all the reference material you need.

You will also need to purchase a fossil kit for this course. The kit is available at the University of Florida Bookstore website (Links to an external site.) and the item is called "UF Custom: Paleontology Kit (GLY3603)". If you enter the course information using the drop down menus the kit will show up under the list of required materials. Kits are still under construction but will be available to order before class begins. Kits are not needed immediately for lab.

You will rent the kit for a rental fee of $60.00 (covers postage to your home and a postage paid return address label). You will use the postage paid return address label to return the kit. You will be charged an additional $200.00 if you do not return the kit, and your student record will be flagged until payment is made.

Note: The fossil kit must be returned prior to the final exam to obtain a grade.

Students with Disabilities:

More information is available in the following pages of the Start Here module:

- Course Tools & Technology
- UF Policies & Services

Academic Honesty & Student Code of Conduct:

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code (Links to an external site.).

The University of Florida Honor Code was voted on and passed by the Student Body in the Fall 1995 semester. The Honor Code reads as follows:

Preamble: In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. A student-run Honor Court and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

The Honor Code: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

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."

If you are caught cheating or helping someone else cheat, you will be subject to sanctions according to the procedures of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (SCCR). If you suspect another student of cheating, please let me know, or call the Cheating Hotline (352-392-6999).

For more information about academic honesty, contact Student Judicial Affairs, P202 Peabody Hall, 352-392-1261.

University Counseling Services & Mental Health Services:

More information is available in the Start Here module UF Policies & Services page.

Course Summary:

Date	Details		
Mon Jan 6, 2020	Calendar Event	Syllabus and Start Here Quiz	8am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 1.1 What is a fossil?	8am
Tue Jan 7, 2020	Calendar Event	ProctorU Registration Open	12am
Wed Jan 8, 2020	Calendar Event	Lab 2, Part 1 Open	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 1.2 Part II. Fossilization	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 1.2 Part I. Fossilization	12am
	Calendar Event	GLY3603C-09C4,19F9(14737,14738) - Paleontology	7pm to 8pm
Thu Jan 9, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 1.2 Part III. Fossilization	12am
Fri Jan 10, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 1.3 Distinguishing Types of Fossilization	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 1.4 Fossil Representation	12am
Mon Jan 13, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 1.5 Environments	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 2.1 Part I. Biostratigraphic Concepts	12am
Tue Jan 14, 2020	Calendar Event	Lab 1 due	12am
	Assignment	Syllabus and Start Here Quiz	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	Lab 1 - Getting Started	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details		
Wed Jan 15, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 2.1 Part II. Biostratigraphic Concepts	12am
	Assignment	Register-ProctorU	due by 11pm
Fri Jan 17, 2020	Calendar Event	Lab 2, Part 2 Open	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 2.1 Part III. Biostratigraphic Concepts	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 2.2 Part I. Biostratigraphic –Chemostratigraphic Concepts	12am
Mon Jan 20, 2020	Calendar Event	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	12am
Tue Jan 21, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 2.2 Part II. Biostratigraphic –Chemostratigraphic Concepts	12am
Wed Jan 22, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 2.2 Part III. Chemostratigraphic Techniques	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 2.3 Assess the biologic and fossil species concept	12am
Fri Jan 24, 2020	Calendar Event	Lab 2, Part 1 Due	12am
	Calendar Event	Lab 3 Open	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 2.4 Analyze evolutionary theory and taxonomic principles	12am
	Assignment	Lab 2-Part 1 Hunting for Fossils	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 27, 2020	Calendar Event	Fossil ID Reminder	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 4.1 The advent of invertebrate life	12am
Wed Jan 29, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 4.2 The conditions leading to the diversification of life	12am
Thu Jan 30, 2020	Calendar Event	Lab 4 Open	12am
	Assignment	Lab 3-Sponges & Archeocyathids	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 31, 2020	Assignment	Exam 1	due by 11pm
Mon Feb 3, 2020	Calendar Event	Fossil ID Reminder	12am

Date	Details			
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Lecture: Module 4.3 Life of the Cambrian Period		12am
Tue Feb 4, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 4.4 Life of the Ordovician Period		12am
Wed Feb 5, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 4.5 Part I Silurian-Devonian Life		12am
Thu Feb 6, 2020	Assignment	Lab 4: Cnidarians	due by 11:59pm	
Fri Feb 7, 2020	Calendar Event	Lab 5 Open		12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 4.5 Part II Silurian-Devonian Life		12am
Mon Feb 10, 2020	Calendar Event	Fossil ID Reminder		12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 4.6 Part I Mississippian-Permian Life		12am
Wed Feb 12, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 4.6 Part II Mississippian-Permian Life		12am
Thu Feb 13, 2020	Assignment	Lab 5-Brachiopods and Bryozoans	due by 11:59pm	
Fri Feb 14, 2020	Calendar Event	Lab 6 Open		12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 4.6 Part III Mississippian-Permian Life		12am
Mon Feb 17, 2020	Calendar Event	Fossil ID Reminder	12am	
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 5.1 Changes in Reef Assemblages Through Time	12am	
	Assignment	Lab 2-Part 2 Hunting for Fossils	due by 11:59pm	
Wed Feb 19, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 5.2 Examples of major Paleozoic Reef Development		12am
Fri Feb 21, 2020	Calendar Event	Lab 7 Open	12am	
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 5.3 Reefs and Hydrocarbons	12am	
	Assignment	Lab 6-Echinoderms: Crinoids, Blastoids and Cystoids	due by 11:59pm	

Date	Details		
Mon Feb 24, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 5.4 Causes of Paleozoic Extinctions	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 5.5 Sepkoski assemblages	12am
Wed Feb 26, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 6.1 Part I Life of the Mesozoic	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 6.1 Part II Life of the Mesozoic	12am
Fri Feb 28, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 6.1 Part III Life of the Mesozoic	12am
Sat Feb 29, 2020	Calendar Event	Spring Break	12am
	Assignment	Lab 7-Echinoderms: Asteroids, Ophiuroids, Regular and Irregular Echinoids	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 1, 2020	Calendar Event	Spring Break	12am
Mon Mar 2, 2020	Calendar Event	Fossil ID Reminder	12am
	Calendar Event	Spring Break	12am
Tue Mar 3, 2020	Calendar Event	Spring Break	12am
Wed Mar 4, 2020	Calendar Event	Spring Break	12am
Thu Mar 5, 2020	Calendar Event	Spring Break	12am
Fri Mar 6, 2020	Calendar Event	Spring Break	12am
Sat Mar 7, 2020	Calendar Event	Spring Break	12am
Sun Mar 8, 2020	Calendar Event	Spring Break	12am
Mon Mar 9, 2020	Calendar Event	Fossil ID Reminder	12am
	Calendar Event	Lab 8 Open	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 6.2 Part I Mesozoic Vertebrates	12am
Tue Mar 10, 2020	Assignment	Exam 2	due by 11pm
Wed Mar 11, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 6.2 Part II Mesozoic Vertebrates	12am
Fri Mar 13, 2020	Calendar Event	Lab 9 Open	12am

Date	Details		
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 6.3-6.5 Cretaceous Extinction	12am
	Assignment	Lab 8-Mollusca: Chitons, Scaphopods, & Gastropods	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 16, 2020	Calendar Event	Fossil ID Reminder	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 7.1 Life of the Cenozoic	12am
Wed Mar 18, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 7.2 Pollen Analysis	12am
Thu Mar 19, 2020	Assignment	Lab 9-Mollusca: Bivalves and Cephalopods	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 20, 2020	Calendar Event	Lab 10 Open	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 7.3 Cenozoic Thermal Maximum	12am
Mon Mar 23, 2020	Calendar Event	Fossil ID Reminder	12am
	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 7.4 Extinction of the Pleistocene Megafauna	12am
Wed Mar 25, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 8.1 Part I Siliceous Microfossils	12am
Thu Mar 26, 2020	Assignment	Lab 10-Arthropods & Graptolites	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 27, 2020	Calendar Event	Lab 11 Open	12am
	Assignment	Fossil ID Final Due	due by 11pm
Tue Mar 31, 2020	Calendar Event	Lab 12 Open	12am
	Assignment	Lab 11- Microfossil Lab 1: Siliceous Microfossils	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 1, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 8.1 Part II Siliceous Microfossils	12am
Fri Apr 3, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 8.2 Part I Calcareous Microfossils	12am
Mon Apr 6, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 8.2 Part II Calcareous Microfossils	12am
Tue Apr 7, 2020	Assignment	Lab 12-Microfossil Lab 2: Calcareous Microfossils	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 13, 2020	Calendar Event	Watch lecture: Module 8.3 Part I Palynomorphs	12am

Date	Details
Tue Apr 14, 2020	Calendar Event Lab 13 Open 12am
Wed Apr 15, 2020	Calendar Event Watch lecture: Module 8.3 Part II Palynomorphs 12am
Fri Apr 17, 2020	Calendar Event Watch lecture: Module 8.4 Conodonts 12am
Tue Apr 21, 2020	Assignment Lab 13- Microfossil Lab 3: Palynomorph Microfossils & Conodonts due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 22, 2020	Assignment Exam 3 due by 11pm

January 2020

Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Previous month	30 Previous month	31 Previous month	1	2	3	4
5	6 Click to view event details	7 Click to view event details	8 Click to view event details	9 Click to view event details	10 Click to view event details	11
12	13 Today Click to view event details	14 Click to view event details	15 Click to view event details	16	17 Click to view event details	18
19	20 Click to view event details	21 Click to view event details	22 Click to view event details	23	24 Click to view event details	25
26	27 Click to view event details	28	29 Click to view event details	30 Click to view event details	31 Click to view event details	1 Next month
2 Next month	3 Next month Click to view event details	4 Next month Click to view event details	5 Next month Click to view event details	6 Next month Click to view event details	7 Next month Click to view event details	8 Next month

Assignments are weighted by group:

Group	Weight
Assignments	0%
Exams	60%
Labs	40%
Extra Credit & ProctorU Registration	3%
Total	**103%**