

Course Syllabus

Spring 2021: Vertebrate Paleontology Research Methods and Applications

GLY 6932/4930 section 1369-1579/1566; ZOO 6927/4926 section 7F3L/7F4L

Instructors:

Dr. Jonathan I. Bloch

Dr. Bruce J. MacFadden

Curator

Distinguished Professor and Curator

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Credits: 2

Meeting day/time: Thursdays, periods 7 & 8 (1:55 to 3:50 pm); no class on 25 Feb (UF recharge Day)

Maximum enrollment: 10

Office hours: By Appointment (virtual)

Synopsis of course content

This course will cover primary and recent literature related to applied research methods in vertebrate paleontology through assigned readings and weekly discussions. As part of this course, students are expected to be engaged in active paleontological research projects. The research projects, to be established during the first few weeks of class, can either be new group collaborative projects (with other students in the class), or done individually to compliment existing research goals. Weekly readings and discussion topics will be related to these research projects. Choice of weekly discussion topics and readings will be made and led by the students on a rotating basis.

Students learning objectives, include to:

Have an overview of diverse research methods applied to Vertebrate Paleontology;

Gain general knowledge about how to develop a research project

Advance understanding of applied methods in vertebrate paleontology

Make significant progress on research projects

Grades will be assessed based on virtual class participation and progress on research projects as follows (100 % total):

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1. Readings: Each student will be responsible for selecting and presenting on paper(s) related to their research interests; and/or leading discussions of other assigned readings. (25%)

1. Discussions: time will be allocated during class for informal discussion and brainstorming as the students develop their research projects. (25%)

- Research deliverables: abstract, paper and/or grant proposal outline. (25%)

1. Final Research Project Presentation. (25%)

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

The participation portion of your grade for this class will be calculated on the basis of your attendance and your participation in class activities. Since the pedagogical approach of this course depends heavily on student engagement and interaction, you are required, at a minimum, to participate in class activities through the audio function of Zoom. Your video presence is invited as well.

Attendance and make-ups

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>).

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/screen-test-protect/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/) (<https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/screen-test-protect/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>). Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Refer to the above link for more information on the university's attendance policy.

Accommodations

Students who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. 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.

Course Evaluations

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 gatorevals.ua.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 ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Academic Integrity

"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 (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process>

[/student-conduct-honorcode/](#).) 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.

Resources Available to Students

Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care*: umatter@ufl.edu (<mailto:umatter@ufl.edu>); 392-1575
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> (<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>); 392-1575
- *Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)*: Student Health Care Center; 392-1161
- *University Police Department*: <http://www.police.ufl.edu/> (<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>); 392-1111 (911 for emergencies)





Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Learningsupport@ufl.edu (<mailto:Learningsupport@ufl.edu>); <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml> (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>); 352-392-4357 (opt. 2)
- *Career Resource Center*: Reitz Union; <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/> (<http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>); 392-1601
- *Library Support*: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask> (<http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>)
- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall; 392-2010 or 392-6420
- *Writing Studio*: 302 Tigert Hall; <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> (<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>); 846-1138

Procedure for Conflict Resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact the (Under)Graduate Coordinator or the Department Chair. Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu> (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>); 392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu> (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>); 392-1261). For further information refer to https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf (https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf) (for residential classes) or <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaintprocess> (<http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaintprocess>) (for online classes).

Course Summary:

| Date | Details | |
|------------------|--|------------------|
| Thu Jan 14, 2021 |  GLY4930/GLY6932/ZOO4926/ZOO6927- Special Topics Geol (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1904946&include_contexts=course_420643) | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |
| Thu Jan 21, 2021 |  GLY4930/GLY6932/ZOO4926/ZOO6927- Special Topics Geol (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1904947&include_contexts=course_420643) | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |
| Thu Jan 28, 2021 |  GLY4930/GLY6932/ZOO4926/ZOO6927- Special Topics Geol (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1904948&include_contexts=course_420643) | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |
| Thu Feb 4, 2021 |  GLY4930/GLY6932/ZOO4926/ZOO6927- Special Topics Geol (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1904949&include_contexts=course_420643) | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |

| Date | Details | |
|------------------|--|------------------|
| Thu Feb 11, 2021 |  GLY4930/GLY6932/ZOO4926/ZOO6927- Special Topics Geol (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1904950&include_contexts=course_420643) | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |
| Thu Feb 18, 2021 |  GLY4930/GLY6932/ZOO4926/ZOO6927- Special Topics Geol (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1904951&include_contexts=course_420643) | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |
| Thu Feb 25, 2021 |  GLY4930/GLY6932/ZOO4926/ZOO6927- Special Topics Geol (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1904952&include_contexts=course_420643) | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |
| Thu Mar 4, 2021 |  GLY4930/GLY6932/ZOO4926/ZOO6927- Special Topics Geol (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1904953&include_contexts=course_420643) | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |
| Thu Mar 11, 2021 |  GLY4930/GLY6932/ZOO4926/ZOO6927- Special Topics Geol (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1904954&include_contexts=course_420643) | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |
| Thu Mar 18, 2021 |  GLY4930/GLY6932/ZOO4926/ZOO6927- Special Topics Geol (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1904955&include_contexts=course_420643) | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |
| Thu Mar 25, 2021 |  GLY4930/GLY6932/ZOO4926/ZOO6927- Special Topics Geol (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1904956&include_contexts=course_420643) | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |
| Thu Apr 1, 2021 |  GLY4930/GLY6932/ZOO4926/ZOO6927- Special Topics Geol (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1904957&include_contexts=course_420643) | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |
| Thu Apr 8, 2021 |  GLY4930/GLY6932/ZOO4926/ZOO6927- Special Topics Geol (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1904958&include_contexts=course_420643) | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |
| Thu Apr 15, 2021 |  GLY4930/GLY6932/ZOO4926/ZOO6927- Special Topics Geol (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1904959&include_contexts=course_420643) | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |