

Syllabus

Posted Aug. 19, 2019

Class Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:25 to 1:45 PM, JFB 103

Office Hours (subject to change):

Professor Ritterbush: T/Th, 1:45 to 2:45 PM, FASB 341

k.ritterbush@utah.edu ; Please send class-related email via Canvas.

Required Text: *Dinosaurs, A concise Natural History, THIRD EDITION, 2016. Fastovsky and Weishampel. Cambridge.*

Note: Also available as e-book and rental. Do not use an earlier edition.

Course Catalogue Description

Dinosaurs are the most celebrated fossil organisms. These remarkably diverse and successful animals inhabited every major continent, persisted more than 150 million years, and evolved numerous bizarre forms of varying body sizes. This course presents an overview of the major dinosaur groups and places them into temporal, biogeographic, and ecological context. Topics include modes of preservation, feeding adaptations, social behavior, evolution, extinction, and the origin of birds. Dinosaurs are also used as a vehicle to introduce the scientific method.

Main Course Objectives

Dinosaur knowledge. Students will be able to:

- identify and distinguish a limited selection of particular dinosaur genera, and several broader clades of dinosaurs, based on anatomical and paleontological traits;
- summarize concepts about the evolution and ecology of dinosaurs and give examples of relevant observations and research approaches.

Ancient world knowledge. Students will be able to:

- recall intervals of geologic time and their order;
- recognize paleogeographic features and their relevance to dinosaur distributions;
- identify major differences and similarities between modern environments and the world of dinosaurs.

Scientific literacy. Students will be able to:

- distinguish observations and interpretations;
- explain the philosophy of hypothesis falsification and recognize examples;
- explain why accepted concepts change frequently in scientific research.

Class Schedule Highlights

Saturday August 31: Field Trip at Tracy Aviary, 10 AM

Thursday September 19: 1- Midterm Exam

Thursday October 24: 2- Midterm Exam

Saturday October 26: Optional full-day field trip to Dinosaur National Monument

Tuesday December 12: Final Exam, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Assessment

Participation, Quizzes, and Field Trip Reports: 25%

The lowest 3 individual quiz scores will be dropped for each student.

Exam 1: 25%

Exam 2: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Class Policies

Students who need to **use the restroom**:

- Please quietly exit the classroom and return when finished.

Students who need to **use digital devices for non-class purposes**:

- Please quietly exit the classroom and return when finished.

Students who **miss class**:

- Ask a peer to take notes for you.
- Review notes with peer when you return.
- Retain excuse paperwork if applicable.
- Request a make-up assignment or quiz if you miss >5 excused classes.

Students who **miss an exam**:

- Notify the professor in advance, if possible.
- Retain and present excuse paperwork as applicable.
- Take the make-up exam within 2 business days of return to campus.
- Make-up exams will contain written and/or oral components.

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Additional Notes

Statement Concerning Disabilities: “The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.” (www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty).

Faculty and Student Responsibilities: “All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.”

“Faculty... must strive in the classroom to maintain a climate conducive to thinking and learning.” PPM 8-12.3, B.

“Students have a right to support and assistance from the University in maintaining a climate conducive to thinking and learning.” PPM 8-10, II. A.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct: “Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).”