

Class Hours: 6:00 - 8:40 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Class Meeting Place: Room 216, Science Building

Syllabus version 1.3, September 2, 2007.

Mr. Ralph Willoughby, instructor

Daytime telephone: (803) 896-7716

Daytime email: willoughbyr@dnr.sc.gov

Office Times: 5:30 - 6:00 pm, Room 207, Science Building
immediately after class
other times by appointment

DO NOT HESITATE to contact me if you have a problem that you need to discuss regarding this class.

Required text: Donald R. Prothero, 2004, 1998, Bringing Fossils to Life, An Introduction to Paleontology (second edition). McGraw-Hill Higher Education, Boston and lots of other places. 503 pages.

Required material for all laboratory drawings: unlined white 8½” x 11” paper, pencil and eraser.

Other Requirements:

Attendance in class and laboratory sessions is required. If an absence is unavoidable, contact the instructor. Only documented University approved excuses will be allowed. Missed material is the responsibility of the student. Handouts and overheads will supplement the class lectures. Turn in all laboratory drawings on unlined white paper. Laboratory drawings are due two lab periods after the last day of that lab assignment.

University Policy:

If you have a physical, psychological and/or learning disability which might affect your performance in this class, please contact the Office of Disability Services, 126A B&E, (803) 641-3609, as soon as possible. The Disability Services office will determine appropriate accommodations based on medical documentation.

Remarks:

Our understanding of fossils changes faster than new textbooks can be written. Consequently, the text will be a GUIDE ONLY to the subject matter and will be supplemented by handouts, projected images, lecture notes not in the text, readings on reserve in the library, topical assignments, and possibly other sources. The laboratory sessions allow you to become familiar with fossils. For those reasons, attendance at all class meetings is required. Laboratory sheets are due on the second meeting after the assignment. Attendance on all field trips is mandatory.

Students will write two short papers (no more than four pages double-spaced) and one longer paper (no more than ten pages double-spaced) on topics in paleontology to be assigned. Students may select topics, subject to guidance and approval by the instructor.

Each class meeting has a lecture and a laboratory session. The class will include at least one local field trip during class time and one all-day trip on a weekend.

Do NOT cite Wikipedia as a reference for assignments, short papers, and term papers. I don't care how you dig up the references you cite, but Wikipedia is not acceptable as a citation.

Suggestions for studying:

Reading assignments in the text WILL be tested.

Material presented in lecture and in overheads and handouts WILL be tested.

Class assignments, class exams, lab assignments, weekly lab assignments and field trips are all VERY IMPORTANT parts of the course.

Grading:

	single	cumulative	
Class Events: 750 points	event	points	overall
Assignment 1	10	10	
Assignment 2	20	30	
Short Paper 1	40	70	
Short Paper 2	40	110	
Short Paper 3	40	150	
Term Paper	70	220	
Exam 1	150	370	
Exam 2	150	520	
Final Exam	230	750	750 points

Laboratory: 250 points			
10 Individual laboratory exercises	100	100	
Group Lab (Lab #11)	20	120	
Lab Exam 1	40	160	
Lab Exam 2	40	200	
Field Trip 1	10	210	
Field Trip 2	40	250	250 points
Sum of points:			1000 points
Grading System:			
A	90-100%		
B	80- 89%		
C	70- 79%		
D	60- 69%		
F	<60%		

Assignment 1: Bring in one newspaper clipping or magazine article or other clipping from the popular press that relates to fossils or paleontology. Photocopies are accepted. Printouts from a RECENTLY POSTED website or internet posting are accepted. Orally present the information from the article. Due Date: August 28.

Assignment 2: Bring in one article from a peer-reviewed scientific journal on a subject in paleontology of your choosing, subject to advisement by the instructor. Orally present the information from the article. Discuss your article. State what you learned from the article. State what interests you about the article. State those points of the article that you do not fully understand. Due Date: September 4.

Short Papers 1, 2 and 3: Write an essay about a fossil group or species, to be selected by the student and subject to my approval. Write at least one of the two Short Papers about invertebrate fossils. You may survey a species or a larger group of fossils. Type and double-space the paper. Place the references on a page (on pages) immediately following the text. Place illustrations after the text. Length of text paper: at least four and no more than six typed, double-spaced pages.

Due Date 1: October 2.

Due Date 1: November 1.

Term Paper: As for Short Papers EXCEPT: Length of text paper: at least ten and no more than twelve typed, double-spaced pages. Due Date 1: November 17.

Field Trip 1: Trace Fossils. Visit a nearby exposure with the trace fossil *Ophiomorpha nodosa* in upper Eocene sediments. We will make this informal field trip during the early part of a scheduled class meeting. Attend the field trip.

Field Trip 2: Fossils in a limestone quarry. We will make this visit on a weekend day during the semester.

AGLY 311 SKED 2007	DATE OF MEETING	MTG. NO.	CLASS TOPIC	Refer to:	LAB TOPIC	LAB NO.	DATE DUE
Thursday	August 23	1	Introduction to Paleontology Preface	(First Meeting)	Taphonomy	1	xxx
Tuesday	August 28	2	Why Study Fossils? Geology. Sediments. Sedimentary Rocks. Stratigraphy. Facies. Sequences. Earth History. Solar System. Plate Tectonics. Geologic Time Scale.	Pages v-viii. Lecture notes.	Overview of Geology for Introductory Paleontology	1	September 4
Thursday	August 30	3	The Fossil Record Taphonomy, etc.	Handout.	Stromatolites and Trace Fossils	2	xxx
Tuesday	September 4	4	Early Life	Chapter 1 Handouts	Stroms. & Traces	2	September 11
Thursday	September 06	5	Early Life	Handouts	Porifera and Cnidaria	3	xxx
Tuesday	September 11	6	Variation in Fossils	Chapter 2	Porifera and Cnidaria	3	September 18
Thursday	September 13	7	Species and Speciation	Chapter 3	Annelida and Arthropoda	4	xxx
Tuesday	September 18	8	Systematics	Chapter 4	Annelida and Arthropoda	4	September 25
Thursday	September 20	9	Colonial Life: Archaeocyathans, Sponges, and Cnidarians	Chapter 12	LAB EXAM 1	xxx	
Tuesday	September 25	10	CLASS EXAM 1	CLASS EXAM 1	Mollusca	5	xxx
Thursday	September 27	11	Arthropods	Chapter 14	Mollusca	5	October 4
Tuesday	October 2	12	Mollusca	Chapter 15	Lophophorates	6	xxx
Thursday	October 4	13	Lophophorates	Chapter 13	Lophophorates	6	October 11
Tuesday	October 9	14	Echinodermata	Chapter 16	Echinodermata	7	xxx
Thursday	October 11		FALL BREAK	FALL BREAK	FALL BREAK	xxx	
Tuesday	October 16	15	Dry Bones	Chapter 17	Echinodermata	7	October 23
Thursday	October 18	16	Dry Bones	Chapter 17	Chordata	8	xxx
Tuesday	October 23	17	Trace Fossils	Chapter 18	Chordata	8	October 30
Thursday	October 25	18	CLASS EXAM 2	CLASS EXAM 2	Microfossils	9	xxx
Tuesday	October 30	19	Micropaleontology	Chapter 11	Microfossils	9	November 6
Thursday	November 1	20	Paleobotany	Chapter 19	Plantae	10	xxx
Tuesday	November 6	21	Evolution	Chapter 5	Plantae	10	November 13
Thursday	November 8	22	Extinction	Chapter 6	Harleyville Formation	11	xxx

Tuesday	November 13	23	Functional Morphology	Chapter 7	Harleyville Formation	11	xxx
Thursday	November 15	24	Paleoecology	Chapter 8	LAB EXAM 2	xxx	xxx
Tuesday	November 20	25	Biogeography	Chapter 9	Harleyville Formation	11	xxx
Thursday	November 22	26	Biostratigraphy	Chapter 10	Harleyville Formation	11	November 27
Tuesday	November 27	27	Selected topics	To Be Arranged	Canepatch Formation	xxx	xxx
Thursday	November 29		THANKSGIVING	HOLIDAY			
Tuesday	December 3	28	Review	Review			
Friday	December 14		COMPREHENSIVE	EXAM			