

GEOS 3332 Age of Dinosaurs Syllabus

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

Age of Dinosaurs is an introductory survey of the anatomy, physiology, life-styles, population, and evolution of dinosaurs and swimming and flying reptiles, as well as Mesozoic climates and basic Earth history of the Age of Dinosaurs. This class meets only on Tuesdays. You are expected to complete all of the reading (including the "Thursday" readings) and prepare for unannounced quizzes during the balance of the week. I am in my office each Thursday during what would ordinarily be class time for TR classes. Concepts such as cladistics can be confusing. I will spend whatever time is necessary discussing these ideas. Please drop by.

There is one field trip (optional attendance) to visit Dinosaur Valley State Park. Required field trip forms:

www.utdallas.edu/dept/sci_ed/Homer/forms/forms.html

For those who are definitely going, forms are due no later than Oct 4

No prerequisites required. GEOS 3132 is a separate and optional one hour lab course.

Week of	Topic	Text Chapters	"Thursday" readings
Aug 23	Introduction, Mesozoic Era, Cladograms	1, 2	Paleoclimate Mesozoic
Aug 30	Evolution	3	Cladistics Dinosaurs and birds
Sep 6	Vertebrates, Dinosauria	4, 5	Classification Fast track evolution
Sep 13	Ornithischia	6, 7, 8	additional readings each week on WebCT
Sep 20	Ornithischia	9, 10	
Sep 27	Sauropods Exam review	11	
Oct 4	Midterm exam		
Oct 11	Theropods	12	
Oct 18	Theropods	13, 14	
Oct 22	Field trip to Dinosaur Valley State Park (leave UTD at 7 a.m. and return by 1 p.m.)		
Oct 25	Dinosaurian biology	15	
Nov 1	Froude numbers and locomotion		
Nov 8	Patterns of evolution/ Extinction	16, 18	
Nov 15	Pterosaurs and marine reptiles Exam review		
Nov 22	Final exam		

COURSE FORMAT

GEOS 3332 requires keeping up with the reading and coming to class prepared. Active participation is required in order to make a top grade. Attendance in class is highly recommended. Exam questions cover all concepts in the text as well as material discussed in class.

PREREQUISITES

None

TEXT (required)

The Evolution and Extinction of Dinosaurs

Fastovsky and Weishampel

Cambridge

EXAMS and QUIZZES

There are two exams. All questions are short answer.

An unannounced quiz may occur in any class. Quiz points are considered extra credit and are added to your final score. Quizzes provide excellent practice for the midterm and final exams.

Makeup midterm or final exam requires a note from a physician or some other credible documentation.

No makeup is permitted for missed quizzes. This is an incentive to come to class.

COURSE GRADE (final grade based on 500 points)

Unannounced extra credit quizzes: 100 points (see above for how these points count)

Midterm Exam: 200 points

Final Exam: 300 points (comprehensive)

Thorough reviews will be provided before Midterm and Final Exams. Final grades are calculated based on a total of 500 points. Quiz points can make up for deficiencies. Clear evidence of improvement **WILL** improve your final grade above your numerical average.

INCOMPLETES

I do not give incompletes without proof of major medical or similar serious problems. A suitable explanatory letter is required.

FIELD TRIP

Field trip participation is optional. No refunds are offered if you choose not to attend the field trip. The field trip actually costs more per student to run than is covered by each fee. Thus, the fund works something like a social security system with many paying for those who actually go. Those who choose not to go this semester may certainly go the next.

STATEMENTS

In this course students will conform to the University rules for academic honesty. For further information see

<http://www.utdallas.edu/student/slifedishonesty.html>

Information from this course can be provided to students with disabilities through University services. For more information see

<http://www.utdallas.edu/student/slifehcsvc.html>