



Age of Dinosaurs Syllabus

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Dr. Homer Montgomery
Fall 2006

PROFESSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Phone	972.883.2480	(last resort contact)
Cell Phone	469.951.8110	(secondary contact)
Office Location	FN 3.308A	
Email Address	mont@utdallas.edu	(primary contact)
Office Hours	Monday afternoon / Wednesday all day	
Other Information	I monitor WebCT regularly	

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions	None
Course Description Objectives	<p><i>Age of Dinosaurs</i> 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". There is one (optional attendance) field trip to Dinosaur Valley State Park. GEOS 3132 is a separate and optional one hour lab course.</p> <p>This is a WebCT-assisted course. Active participation is required in order to make a top grade. Class meets regularly unless noted in the syllabus. Attendance in class is highly recommended.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to participate in field activities. Those students who cannot get away for the weekend will be offered an alternative project to be completed in lieu of the trip. Required field tips forms will be provided.</p>
Methodology	<p>All lectures will be reinforced with demonstrations or examples. There will be no lectures longer than twenty minutes.</p> <p>All in-class projects will respect the student's prior knowledge and perspectives, be learner-centered, and be products constructed by a group. In these instances, the professor will function as a coach.</p> <p>An active online discussion board on WebCT will be maintained.</p> <p>One attendance-optional field trip will be taken to Dinosaur Valley State Park near Glen Rose, TX.</p>
Activities	<p>The class is designed as an encounter with the underpinnings of the geologic history of the Mesozoic Era and the evolution and extinction of dinosaurs, and marine and flying reptiles. We also explore details of taphonomy and biology. Class meets each Tuesday.</p> <p>Students will take several quizzes covering various facets of the week's topics on WebCT. Quizzes of the week are available on WebCT each Thursday at 0600 and are available until midnight Saturday. There are usually only ten questions, but they can be tricky. Most answers are not straightforward. The quizzes (which require significant effort) function as Thursday's class as they require you to be intimately familiar with (at least) all assigned readings.</p> <p>Exam 1 and Exam 2 are to be completed in class and are comprehensive. The exams include various dead things and other manipulatives.</p>
Learning Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will recognize and describe the intricacies of the evolutionary history of select Mesozoic vertebrates 2. Students will describe the biology and paleoecology of select Mesozoic vertebrates 3. Students will evaluate a real-world dinosaur site utilizing criteria presented in the class and in primary sources
Required Texts & Materials Provided	<p><i>The Evolution and Extinction of Dinosaurs</i> Fastovsky and Weishampel 2005</p>

	Cambridge
Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials	Linked on WebCT (actively updated)

ASSIGNMENTS & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

[Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates]

Class notes, readings from assigned books, and pertinent web sites for each week are linked below. You might also want to augment the notes with other web pages and post the URLs on the WebCT discussion board. Remember to stick with reputable sites such as those produced by museums, universities, and the like.

Week of	Topic	Assigned Readings	
Aug 22	Introduction, Mesozoic Era, Geologic time WebCT quiz of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	1-5	Paleoclimate Mesozoic
Aug 29	The fossil record Taphonomy WebCT quiz of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday		Taphonomy
Sep 5	Vertebrate Origins Patterns of evolution, form and function WebCT quiz of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday		Vertebrate origins Cladistics Evolution Classification
Sep 12	Ornithischia WebCT quiz of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	6-10	Ornithischia
Sep 16	Field trip to Dinosaur Valley State Park (7 am to 1 pm) - attendance optional		
Sep 26	Sauropods Exam Review WebCT quiz of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	11	Sauropods
Oct 3	Exam 1 in class		
	Class will be held in Big Bend Oct 6-8 for those who can go. This is completely optional. You would have to get yourself there. Several of us will be working at a dinosaur site. See Dr. Montgomery for details.	Airlift video (QuickTime file)	
Oct 10	Theropods WebCT quiz of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	12	Theropods Dinosaurs and birds
Oct 17	Froude numbers and locomotion WebCT quiz of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	13, 14	Tracks
Oct 24	Dinosaurian biology WebCT quiz of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday	15	Physiology Histology
Oct 31	Marine reptiles WebCT quiz of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday		Marine Reptiles
Nov 7	Pterosaurs WebCT quiz of the week available from 0600 Thursday until 2400 Saturday		Pterosaurs Extinction
Nov 14	Extinctions Big Bend research Exam review		
Nov 21	Exam 2 in class		

COURSE POLICIES

Grading (credit)

WebCT quizzes: 100 points (mostly short answer with a few multiple choice)

Participation in discussions on WebCT (a minimum of 30 substantive posts during the course of the semester are required for full credit): 100

Exam 1: 100 points

Exam 2: 200 points (comprehensive)

Make-up Exams

None without prior approval of instructor

Extra Credit

None

Late Work

Accepted only with written excuse

Special Assignments

See below

Class Attendance

Attendance required unless permission by instructor is obtained

Classroom Citizenship

All students must be considerate. Please turn off your cell phones and do not use computers for purposes other than for class.

Field Trip Policies

Attendance required unless permission by instructor is obtained

Student Conduct and Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, A to Z Guide, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grades

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.