



Course GEOS 3432 - 501 Introduction to Fossils
GEOS 3432 – 801 Introduction to Fossils Lab
Professor Dr. Ignacio Pujana
Term Fall 2006- 08-17-06 to 11-27-06
Meetings Lecture: TR 05:30-06:45 PM FA 2.4
Laboratory: TR 07:00-08:15 PM FA 2.4

Professor's Contact Information

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Office Hours By appointment

Other Information UTD originated e-mails are the only ones I will read and reply.

General Course Information

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions None

This course focuses on a scientific understanding of the world's past fossil record. Especially by the study of invertebrate fossils occurring in North Texas Cretaceous sedimentary strata. "Hands on" approach to the study of invertebrate macrofossils and microfossils. Students will learn how to collect fossils at selected localities in the field; process samples for fossils in the laboratory; illustrate microfossils using the scanning electron microscope; and identify fossils using the available paleontological literature. Both lectures and laboratory exercises will focus on the invertebrate fossils occurring in North Texas Cretaceous sedimentary rocks

Course Description

- Classify most fossil organisms down to phylum class level.
- Collect, prepare, and identify representative Texas fossils.
- Examine, understand and critically analyze the principles of modern paleontology, current evolutionary concepts, and paleontological research which go far beyond the conventional classification and morphology of fossils invertebrates.

Learning Outcomes

- Identify, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize insights from the scientific paradigms which guide researchers in the field.
- Cultivate the art of scientific paper writing by preparing an original research paper based on research done by the student.
- Understand and appreciate the relationship of the past record to our present.

Required Texts & Materials *A Guide to Fossils by Helmut Mayr. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, pp. 1-256, 1992.*

Test materials will be taken both from the textbook, handouts, and **Suggested Texts**, lectures. .

Readings, & Class project will count 60 percent of class grade. Remaining 40 **Materials** percent of grade will be based on lecture midterm grade + all laboratory grades

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Day	Lecture	Laboratory	Reading:
Th. August 17	No lecture. Organizational meeting only.	No lab until Thursday	None.
Tuesday, August 22	Lecture: Introduction to the study of fossils.	Fossil preservation.	Introduction: pp. 1-16.
Thursday, August 24:	Classification. Introduction to stratigraphy. Stratigraphic units. Methods of stratigraphic correlation.	Fossil preservation. Sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks. Introduction to topographic maps and geologic maps.	Reading: Introduction: pp. 17-31.
Tuesday, August 29:	Methods of stratigraphic correlation. The Geologic Time Table	Introduction to topographic maps and geologic maps.	Unicellular organisms: pp. 32-35. Crustaceans: p. 140.
Thursday, August 31:	Microfossils: Foraminifera and Ostracods.	Field techniques: Concept of strike and dip. Introduction to Brunton compass. "Jacob staff" method of measuring a section.	Unicellular organisms: pp. 32-35. Crustaceans: p. 140.
Tuesday, September 5:	Lecture: Microfossils: Foraminifera and ostracods.	The Foraminifera.	No assignment.
Thursday, September 7:	Lecture: Microfossils: Foraminifera and ostracods.	Microfossils: Foraminifera and ostracods..	No assignment.
Tuesday, September 12	Bryozoa & Brachiopods.	Bryozoa & Brachiopods	Bryozoa and Brachiopods: pp. 142-154. Use illustrations in text in conjunction with class notes and handouts.
Thursday, September 14:	The Mollusca (Snails)	Test on all material through microfossils.	Reading: Mollusca: Snails, pp. 76-86. Use illustrations in text in conjunction with class notes and handouts.
Tuesday, September 19:	Lecture: The Mollusca (Bivalves/pelecypods)	Snails.	Reading: Bivalves, pp. 60-74. Use illustrations in text in conjunction with class notes and handouts.
Thursday, September 21:	Lab.: Lecture: The Mollusca (Cephalopods).	Bivalves.	Reading: Mollusca: Cephalopods: 88-124. Use illustrations in text in conjunction with class notes and handouts.
Saturday, September 23	Field trip to Sherman-Dennison to measure section and collect fossils for class project.	Mandatory. This date is tentative. Will depend on decision of class.	
Tuesday, September 26:	Lecture: The Mollusca (Cephalopods).	Mollusca (Cephalopods).	Mollusca: Cephalopods: 88-124. Use illustrations in text in conjunction with class notes and handouts

Thursday, September 28:	Lecture: The Echinoderms	Finish Mollusca. Review.	Reading: Echinoderms: Starfish--Sea Urchins (only): pp. 162-168
Tuesday, October 3:	Lecture: The Echinoderms.	Lab. Test on Mollusca.	.
Thursday, October 5:	Lecture: Review for Midterm Lecture Exam.	Echinoderms: Starfish and Sea Urchins.	Reading: Echinoderms: Starfish--Sea Urchins (only): pp. 162-168
Tuesday, October 10:	Lecture: Midterm exam.	No lab.	Reading: None assigned.
Thursday, October 12:	Lecture: Discussion of class term project for lecture and lab.	Test on Echinoderms.	
Tuesday, October 17 to Tuesday, November 21. Note that this is the last day of class for this course because of Thanksgiving Holiday. (See Final Exam period below).			
No formal lectures. Workshop during lecture and laboratory time on class project. Class project due by final exam period. Class project will count 60 percent of class grade. Remaining 40 percent of grade will be based on lecture midterm grade + all laboratory grades.			
November 23 to November 25:	Thanksgiving Holiday.		
Monday.- Nov. 27	End of Fall Semester		
Tuesday, November 28 to Monday, December 4	FINAL EXAM PERIOD: Class group term report should be completed and turned as soon a possible during Final Exam period.		

Course Policies

Grading (credit) Criteria	Each test contributes equally towards your grade. You can keep track of your grades by checking the course WebCT page (link available on the UTD homepage). The final grade is based on the following percentile divisions A+: 97.1-100; A: 93.1-97; A-: 90.1-93; B+: 87.1-90; B: 83.1-87; B-: 80.1-83; C+: 77.1-80; C: 73.1-77; C-: 70.1-73, D=60.1-70, F<60.
Make-up Exams	Tests will be taken only during the scheduled in-class period, unless the instructor agrees to reschedule an individual's test as the result of a prior agreement, or a doctor's excuse certifies the student was too ill to attend class the day of the examination. If you have health problems, or extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.
Extra Credit	Attendance may count as much as 5 % of your grade.
Late Work	none
Special Assignments	None
Class Attendance	Highly Recommended
Classroom Citizenship	According with UTD guidelines
Field Trip Policies	No Field trip

<p>Student Conduct and Discipline</p>	<p>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, <i>A to Z Guide</i>, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.</p> <p>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 <i>Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3</i>, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's <i>Handbook of Operating Procedures</i>. 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).</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Academic Integrity</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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	<p>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.</p>
Disability Services	<p>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.</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Religious Holy Days	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities	<p>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.</p>

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