

History of Life Syllabus Spring 2016

Geol. 4315-003 CRN:25881

Lecture and Lab Combined: Mon & Wed. 10:30 – 11:50am
GS Room 404

Instructor: Dr. Kate Giles, GS 201

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Office Hours: M&W: 9-10:30am; Noon-1:30pm; T&TH: 9-11

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Course Overview

My objective for this course is to provide you with the scientific background, both facts and ideas, in regard to significant “*biologic events*” in earth’s history and the geologic context of those events.

Required Text

Fossils and the Evolution of Life by Greg Mack. Available for \$30.00 at GS 201b.

Assignments & Grading

Grading will be based on scores from the following:

Lecture Exam 1 March 2	100 points
Lecture Exam 2 May 4	100 points
Homeworks 1-9	20 points each; 180 points
Lab 1 Permian Flora & Fauna	50 points
Lab 2 Cretaceous Flora & Fauna	50 points

Homeworks and Labs must be turned in one week from date issued.

No Homeworks or Labs will be accepted late!

You must be present for the two scheduled labs as the samples will only be available during the scheduled lab time.

Tentative Schedule

Lecture Topic	Reading
W Jan. 20 Overview of Class; Fossilization Process <i>Homework 1 Geologic Timescale & Background</i>	p. 1 - 15 <i>Handout & p. 16</i>
MW Jan. 25 & 27 Precambrian Fossil Record/Ediacaran Fauna <i>Homework 2 Ediacaran Fauna</i>	p. 17 - 22 <i>Handout</i>
MW Feb. 1 & 3 Cambrian Explosion of Life <i>Homework 3 Burgess Shale Fossils</i>	p. 23 <i>Handout</i>
MW Feb. 8 & 10 Paleozoic Invertebrates	p. 24 - 30
M Feb. 15 Chordates & Hemichordates; Paleozoic Fishes <i>Homework 4 Fish Attributes</i>	p. 31 - 37 <i>Handout</i>
W Feb. 17 No Class – UTEP Campus closed for the Pope’s visit to Juarez	
M Feb. 22 Paleozoic Land Flora <i>Homework 5 Mazon Creek Flora</i>	p. 38 - 41 <i>Handout</i>
W Feb. 24 Paleozoic Land Fauna-Amphibians	p. 42
M Feb 29 Paleozoic Land Fauna-Reptiles	p. 43 - 45
W March 2 Lecture Exam 1	
MW March 7 & 9 UTEP Spring Break – No Class	
MW March 14 & 16 Lab 1 Permian of NM & West Texas	p. 46 - 48
MW March 21 & 23 Paleozoic Mass Extinctions	p. 49 - 50
M March 28 Mesozoic Marine Invertebrates & Protists	p. 51 - 56
W March 30 Mesozoic & Cenozoic Land plants <i>Homework 6 Florissant Fossil Beds</i>	p. 57 - 59 <i>Handout</i>
M April 4 Mesozoic Amphibians & Reptiles	p. 60-62
W April 6 Dinosaurs <i>Homework 7 Dinosaur Comparison Chart</i>	p. 63 - 67 <i>Handout</i>
M April 11 Dinosaur Behavior	p. 63
W April 13 Fossil Record of Birds <i>Homework 8 Solnhofen Limestone</i>	p. 68 - 70 <i>Handout</i>
MW April 18 & 20 Lab 2 Cretaceous Mancos & McRae Fm.	p. 71 - 72
M April 27 Mesozoic Mass Extinctions	p. 73 - 74
W April 29 Mammals <i>Homework 9 Labrea Tar Pits</i>	p. 74 - 75 <i>Handout</i>
M May 2 Cenozoic Mass Extinctions	p. 76 - 78
W May 4 Lecture Exam 2	