GLY-1101L: The History of Life Laboratory

Fall Term 2019 Syllabus

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Room: PC 448 (Charles Perry Building at Modesto A. Maidique Campus)

Class: Section U01: Tuesdays 11:00 AM – 1:45 PM

Office hours are by appointment. Please, if you need assistance do not hesitate to meet with me or send me an email. I will do my best to respond to your email within 24 hours.

LAB DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVE: This course is an introduction to the interactions of biological and geological principles and processes, history and ecology of past life, and major events such as the marine invasion of land, mass extinctions, and the Ice Age. Students will receive hands-on experience with fossils and other biological specimens to understand the interacting biological and geological principles and processes that shape life on Earth.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
- Students will demonstrate their ability to describe and identify different types of fossils and geologic materials.
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of how life has evolved through geologic time.
- Students will be able to evaluate data in the context of major global events and trends.

COURSE MATERIALS: Lab Exercise handouts must be downloaded and printed out before the beginning of each class. You can access them through Canvas. It may be simplest to print out as many exercises as possible at one sitting rather than having to remember to print them out each week before coming to class. The book Life of the Past (4th edition), by W.I. Ausich and N.G. Lane (1999), which is required for the lecture course, can be used to supplement explanations in the handouts.

GRADING
Labs: Each weekly Lab Exercise handout = 10 points. Total possible lab exercise points = 100.
Exams Will be practical (will involve identifying fossils and using tools/techniques from labs). Lab Midterm = 50 points. Lab Final = 50 points. Total exam points = 100. The exams will have fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions.
Total: 200 points possible
Grades: Grades are determined by percentage as follows:
A = 93-100, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C = 70-76,
D = 60-69, F = fewer than 60 %.

LAB POLICIES
- Labs start on time and attendance is mandatory. Be on time points will be deducted for tardiness. There are no makeup labs or exams. If you have a medical emergency or a serious family problem then arrangements for an alternate assignment will be made possible with verification in the form of an official document will be required.
  - Valid reasons for missing class: “I was hospitalized, I was at the doctor (with a doctor’s note for either), I was on a field trip for another class (with note), Death in the (immediate) family (with documentation), athletic event (athletes only) with documentation.” If you are aware that you will need to miss a class within the semester, requests should be made during the first week of the semester, so arrangements can be made for you to sit in on another section of the course.
  - Reasons for missing that will not be excused: “I had a cold, I was out of town, I got stuck in traffic.” There will be NO makeup labs allowed for these types of excuses.
  - You can attend another lab section if you know you will miss class on a certain date. Please email me if you need to attend another section so I may arrange it with the lab instructor.
- In keeping with university policy, accommodations for students who wish to observe their religious holidays will try to be made. Students should make these requests known during the first week of the semester.
- Cheating and any other kind of misconduct is unacceptable and will be reported to university officials. See official university policy http://integrity.fiu.edu/misconducts.html
  - During exams all electronic devices (cellphones, smart watches..etc) must be put away.
- The class will be responsible for cleaning up the Lab.
- No food or drinks in the laboratory
## LAB COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXERCISES</th>
<th>MATERIAL COVERED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTRO</strong></td>
<td>Course overview, handling fossils and zoological specimens and Telling Time: Principles of Stratigraphy (Covers Chapter 1: pages 6-12, Chapter 3: pages 47-51)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LAB 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>August 27</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LAB 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>September 3</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LAB 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>September 10</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LAB 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>September 17</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TBA</strong></td>
<td><strong>September 24</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LAB 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>October 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LAB 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>REVIEW</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LAB 7</strong></td>
<td><strong>October 22</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LAB 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>October 29</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LAB 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>November 5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LAB 10</strong></td>
<td><strong>November 12</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>REVIEW</strong></td>
<td><strong>November 19</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TBA</strong></td>
<td><strong>November 26</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 3</strong></td>
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**MIDTERM**
- **October 15**
  - Midterm (Covers Labs 1 - 5)

**LAB**
- **October 8**
- **October 22**
  - Invertebrates of the Mesozoic Era (Covers Chapter 10: pages 152-161, Chapter 11: pages 162-178, Chapter 12: pages 179-192)
- **October 29**
- **November 5**
  - Plants and Paleoclimates (Covers Chapter 13: pages 193-198, Chapter 14: pages 205-232)
- **November 12**
  - Dinosaurs, Mammals, and Hominoids (Covers Chapter 13: pages 198-204, Chapter 15: pages 233-258, Chapter 16: pages 259-280, Chapter 17: pages 281-291)
- **November 19**
  - Review of all lab material (Labs 1 – 10)
- **November 26**
  - To be announced

**FINAL EXAM**
- **December 3**
  - FINAL EXAM (Cumulative), covers Labs 1-10

**NOTE:** this is NOT the final exam time shown on myFIU

The syllabus may be subject to change due to unscheduled events such as emergency university closings. Please consult the syllabus on the web for the latest version.