GLY-1101L: The History of Life Laboratory

Fall Term 2019

Room: PC 448 (Charles Perry Building at UP Campus)

Instructor: Kimberly Beck  Email: kbeck001@fiu.edu
Office: PC 326

Class: Thursday 11:00AM – 1:45PM

Office hours are by appointment. Please, if you need assistance do not hesitate to meet with your lab instructor. Schedule an appointment by email.

LAB OBJECTIVE: Hands-on experience with fossils and other biological specimens to understand the interacting biological and geological principles and processes that shape life on Earth.

CLASS READINGS: Lab Exercise handouts must be downloaded and printed out before the beginning of each class.

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 Lab Exercise points = 100 (50% of grade). Each lab will be evaluated on an individual basis, and will be returned at the beginning of the next lab. There will be no grading on a normal curve (curving).

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(50% of grade). The exams will have fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions.

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 = 73-76, C- = 70-72, D+ = 67-69, D = 63-66, D- = 60-62, F = fewer than 60%.

Policies

- Attendance is mandatory because written exercises are completed during the labs. 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. Verification in the form of an official document will be required. Labs start on time, points will be deducted for tardiness. If you are more than 10 minutes late to lab you will
not be permitted to attend the lab and will need to make arrangements to complete the lab with one of the other scheduled lab courses, or that lab will be counted as a zero.

- 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.

- Missing THREE labs will result in the automatic FAILURE of the lab
- 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 Student Handbook regarding the FIU policies.

- The class will be responsible for cleaning up the Lab.
- No food or drinks in the laboratory; cell phones must be turned off during lab; points will be deducted for phone usage.
## LAB COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXERCISES</th>
<th>MATERIAL COVERED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTO August 29</td>
<td>Course overview, handling fossils and zoological specimens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| LAB 1 September 5 | Telling Time: Principles of Stratigraphy  
                      (Covers Chapter 1: pages 6-12, Chapter 3: pages 47-51) |
| LAB 2 September 12 | Principles of Classifying Biodiversity, and Preservation of Fossils  
                      (Covers Chapter 2: pages 19-32, Chapter 3: pages 33-46) |
| LAB 3 September 19 | Paleoenvironments, Paleoecology, and Preservation  
                      (Covers Chapter 3: pages 46-47 & 51-54) |
| No Class September 26 | No Class |
| LAB 4 October 3 | Genetic Expression and Frequencies  
                      (Covers Chapter 3: pages 33-46, Chapter 5: pages 63-67) |
| LAB 5 Midterm Review October 10 | Morphologic Variation and Evolution  
                      (Covers Chapter 5: pages 66-75)  
                      Midterm review for chapters 1-5 |
| MIDTERM October 17 | Midterm (Covers Labs 1 - 5) |
| LAB 6 October 24 | Invertebrates of the Paleozoic Era  
                      (Covers Chapter 9: pages 121-132, Chapter 10: pages 133-151, Chapter 11: pages 162-178, Chapter 12: pages 179-192) |
| LAB 7 October 31 | Invertebrates of the Mesozoic Era  
                      (Covers Chapter 10: pages 152-161, Chapter 11: pages 162-178, Chapter 12: pages 179-192) |
| LAB 8 November 7 | Invertebrates of the Cenozoic Era  
                      (Covers Chapter 10: pages 152-161, Chapter 11: pages 162-178, Chapter 12: pages 179-192) |
| LAB 9 November 14 | Plants and Paleoclimates  
                      (Covers Chapter 13: pages 193-198, Chapter 14: pages 205-232) |
| LAB 10 November 21 | 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)  
                      Review of all lab material (Labs 1 – 10) |
| No Class November 28 | No Class Thanksgiving Break |
| FINAL EXAM December 5 | 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.