

ES
GEOLOGY 431/531 (CRN 10467/10468) - Paleobiology

Fall 2005

Instructor: Dr. Jeff Myers
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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 3-5, Wed. 3-4, by appointment, or any time my door is open
Text: Stearn and Carroll. Paleontology: The Record of Life 1st or 2nd edition
Lab Manual: provided

Objectives of the Course: The purpose of ES 431/531 is to introduce to the study of paleobiology, to information obtainable from the study of the fossil record, including information about evolution/extinction, biogeography, the behavior of organisms, and ancient climates and landscapes, and to methods used in the study of ancient living systems.

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Lab</u>
1) Sept 68/28	What is a Fossil? Overview of paleontology The fossil record of the Northwest	Introduction: 1-21	Fossil Preservation
2) Oct 3/5	Metazoan evolution The earliest marine organisms	Ch. 5/ Ch.15	Paleozoic invertebrates
3) Oct 10/12	QUIZ 1 Metazoans continued		Paleozoic Invertebrates continued

Required Field Trip to the John Day Basin: Leave WOU at 2:30 Friday, Oct. 14 and Return 9:00 Sunday, Oct. 16.

4) Oct 17/19	The Ordovician radiation and complex marine life	Ch. 6/7 Ch. 14	Invertebrate Form and Function
5) Oct 24/26	QUIZ 2 Early Land Plants: Adaptations to life on land Oregon's paleobotanical record	Ch 8	Devonian plant Communities
6) Oct 31 Nov 2	Permo-Triassic extinction and Mesozoic challenges The Mesozoic in Oregon and the Northwest	Ch 10	Mollusc Form and Function
7) Nov 7/9	QUIZ 3 The Late Mesozoic/Early Cenozoic of Oregon		Cenozoic Marine Communities of Oregon
8) Nov 14/16	Fossil plant identification and applications The Record of Cenozoic Climate in Oregon	Handout	Fossil Weather Reports
9) Nov 21/23	Vertebrate Evolution: origins and vertebrate structure	Ch 11/ Ch. 14	Vertebrate Form and Function
10) Nov. 28/30	Cenozoic vertebrate communities of the Northwest: Browsers and Grazers	Ch 12	Morphology and evolution of the horses

Final Examination: Monday Dec. 5, 4:00 PM, NS 218

Grading (ES431):	Laboratory reports	35%
	3 quizzes	35%
	Final	30%

Students enrolled in G540 will be required to design, organize and present a laboratory activity in consultation with me.

Grading (ES531):	Laboratory reports	30%
	3 quizzes	25%
	Final	30%
	Special Project	15%

POLICY

Graded Assignments:

This is a lab intensive class. You may find that the lab period is insufficient for completing the lab project, and will need to devote time outside of class. Laboratory exercises will be due one week from the date they are assigned. I will NOT accept late lab reports or writing assignments. If you are unable to attend class, have a friend turn in your assignment.

The field trip is required, and is an integral portion of the class. Exam questions may be based on information from the field trip.

Quizzes are designed to keep your lab and lecture work up to date, and may be cumulative in that an understanding of concepts discussed throughout the course will be required. Quizzes will include lab practicum and conceptual questions.

Grades:

My grading policy is simple. Grades will not be curved; however the grading scale is adjusted in such a way that the highest score given for any test or assignment is equivalent to a 100% score. Hence, if the highest grade given on a quiz is 93/100, grades will be calculated out of a score of 93, rather than 100.

Course Policies:

- You are required to attend lab. Attendance will be assessed from your turned-in assignments. Generally, makeup labs will not be offered, although documented emergencies may be accommodated when possible. Tests will emphasize information covered in lecture and lab. You will find that the readings are NOT a substitute for participation in lecture and lab.
- Quizzes will be announced one or more lectures beforehand. Quizzes will NOT be cumulative, will emphasize material covered in homework questions, and may not be made up without a formal WRITTEN explanation. BLANKET EMAILS FROM YOUR COACH/CLUB ADVISOR/PROFESSOR ARE NOT CONSIDERED "FORMAL", and I do not read them. The final examination WILL be cumulative.

Procedure for making up missed quizzes: Your first missed quiz will be your "dropped" quiz. If you will miss an additional quiz because of a game or club trip, IT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF YOUR COACH OR CLUB ADVISOR TO ADMINISTER THE QUIZ TO YOU AND TO RETURN THE QUIZ TO ME BY CAMPUS MAIL. I will send the quiz to your coach/advisor by campus mail beforehand with proper notification from you. In all other circumstances, you must arrange a time to make up the quiz during my office hours. Makeups may be oral or written.

- If for any reason you expect to miss class, **let me know beforehand if at all possible**. If you are going to be out of town for a game, you **MUST** tell me personally beforehand. There are no exceptions to these rules. If you cannot reach me, contact the Office of Student Affairs (88821), and they will notify me.
- If you would benefit from an alternative testing environment I encourage you to work with the Office of Disability Services (Werner Center 012 phone 88250).
- Cheating or copying in either lab or lecture is unacceptable, and will result in a ZERO score on that assignment, and may result in consequences at the administrative level.
- I do not assign incompletes unless specifically required to do so by the registrar.
- Office hours are YOUR time. Please use them to your benefit. If you would like to organize a study group during office hours, please do it. If you need to see me at a time outside of normal office hours time, please stop by or call. If I'm busy, please don't take it personally.
- Discuss your performance and grade with me frequently BEFORE finals week