

GEOLOGY 106: DINOSAURS
WINTER 2013 SYLLABUS, PART 1 (CLASS LOGISTICS)
-Section A (Item # 4529) Meets MTTh from 1:00-2:35pm in SC 111

Instructor: Dr. Kathryn Hoppe

Office: SC 221

Office Hours: MTTh 2:40 - 3:40pm & W 1 - 2 pm & by appointment

Instructor E-mail: khoppe@greenriver.edu

Note: All e-mails should include the class name (Dinosaurs) or number (Geol 106) in the subject line

Phone: 253-833-9111, ext. 4323 (or toll free from Tacoma: 253-942-0180 or Seattle:206-464-6133)

Course Web Site: <http://www.instruction.greenriver.edu/khoppe>

TEXT: *Dinosaurs: A Concise Natural History* by D. Fastovsky and D. Weishampel. 2012. Cambridge University Press (available in the bookstore). Assigned readings are listed on the class schedule.

This quarter we will focus on three major goals:

1. To develop and improve our understanding of the Earth's fossil record, how fossils are preserved, and how the dinosaurs fit into the history of life on our planet. I hope that you will more closely examine our world as a result of this course. You should gain a better understanding of the interactions that are needed to maintain complex ecosystems, understand the importance of biological diversity, and learn about the threats to diversity (past and present).
2. To gain a general knowledge of how science in works as a discipline as well as specific knowledge about what scientists have discovered about dinosaur biology and taxonomy.
3. To develop skills to work efficiently with peers to solve problems and answer open-ended questions. I hope that the skills you learn in this class will carry over into your other classes and into your daily lives.

To accomplish these goals and assess your progress there will be a variety of instructional activities:

- 1) lecture-discussion sessions and group problem-solving, where students will be asked to interpret scientific problems and apply the information presented in lecture, 2) In class investigations, where students will make observations and interpret their significance to the scientific problems posed in class, 3) poster presentations and individual readings and investigations, where students will interpret facts in relation to current scientific theories, and 4) in-class quizzes and exams.

GRADING

1. Exams	55%
2. In-class Investigations & Quizzes	20%
3. In-class Group Discussion Problems, Movie Guides, & Homework	15%
4. Poster presentations	10%

If you score above 90%, your grade is in the "A" category (3.5-4.0), and if your score is between 80% and 90% your grade is in the "B" category (2.5-3.5), etc. However, if I give a difficult exam and the average score is low, I may curve the final class grades so that the average grade is not below a 2.0. At the end of the quarter the grades from the exams, assignments, group discussion problems, the quizzes, and the poster project will be averaged according to the weighting factors shown above to determine the final grade.

Score	Grade		Score	Grade
≥ 95%	4.0		75%	2.0
90%	3.5		70%	1.5
85%	3.0		65%	1.0= lowest passing grade
80%	2.5			

Regular attendance to class and participation in class discussions are important parts of this course. Thus, if you if you miss more that 10 days of class, you may receive a grade of 0.0.

Evaluation

Important Note: In order to receive full credit on all assignments you must put your first name (or preferred nickname) and your *full last name* on each assignment.

EXAMS: There will be 3 midterm and 1 final examinations during the quarter. Exams dates are shown on the lecture schedule. The questions on these exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer/objective, and/or essay questions in format. **There are no make-up exams**, but the lowest of your 4 exam scores will be automatically dropped. Note: Exam # 4 will be cumulative and it will be given during the school's final exam period (listed on the class schedule).

2. IN-CLASS INVESTIGATIONS: I have found that students get more from this course and have more fun if we use some of the class time to **investigate** subjects rather than just listening to lectures. So on some days during class you will be asked to complete in-class assignments.

3. QUIZZES: Throughout the quarter there will be in-class quizzes/review assignments given over material that we have covered in class or that was assigned as reading. You are allowed to use notes for these quizzes. You may use any hand written notes or reading guide handouts (from the web page), but you may not use your book. Note: reading guides may only be used if their format has not been changed. There are no make-ups if you miss a quiz.

4. IN-CLASS GROUP DISCUSSION PROBLEMS, MOVIE GUIDES, & HOMEWORK, For group discussions, you will break into groups and work on the solution to an open-ended problem. You and your group will discuss the situation and submit one written answer by the end of the class. Only those present for the class and discussion will receive credit for these problems. There will also be short assignments that you will be expected to complete on your own. These may include clicker questions (clicker will be provided). Missed in-class assignments cannot be made up, but some of the points can be made up by turning in extra credit assignments (see section labeled "extra credit" below).

5. POSTER PRESENTATIONS: A poster is a visually oriented, stand-alone presentation of a topic. You will be responsible for constructing and presenting a poster on a pre-approved dinosaur-related topic. The presentation dates are listed on the class schedule. **You must present your poster to receive credit.** Detailed instructions on how to construct and present a poster will be posted on the class web site and will be distributed in class.

6. EXTRA CREDIT: You may earn extra credit points by writing a legible one-paragraph summary (approximately 100 to 150 words) on a current news report relating to the fossil record. The news must have been reported in a reputable mainstream newspaper, magazine, or the web-site of a television or radio news show. No Blog entries accepted. The news report must be less than 4 days old and at least 200 words in length. You must *reference the original news report and bring a copy of the text of the original story*. You can receive credit for a maximum of 3 news summaries (for up to 3 points each), but you can only turn in a maximum of 2 extra credit summaries in one week. All extra credit must be turned in by the last day of lecture (date noted on schedule).

Content Specific Learning Outcomes: (Student Achievement during the course)

This course has four primary goals:

1. You will correctly apply information presented during the lectures to the solutions of open-ended questions.
2. You will make observations and correctly link those observations to information from the lecture & your readings.
3. You will correctly use a computer to analyze or obtain scientific data.
4. You will develop skills to work effectively with peers in finding solutions to scientific problems

These outcomes will be demonstrated by: 1) successful achievement on assignments, quizzes and exams, 2) responses to group discussion questions, 3) your presentation of a poster project.

Campus-wide Learning Outcomes: Green River Community College has identified ability areas that we believe encompass knowledge and are the most important skills that students will need in order to be successful after leaving college. This course will focus primarily on developing one of these outcomes:

Critical Thinking Ability:

You will be asked to examine your scientific thinking by:

- 1) Explaining your ideas to open-ended questions (in some cases I ask that students defend their choice of more specific answers)
- 2) Making observations of samples provided in class and applying you observations to questions posed by the instructor and other students
- 3) Applying information from lecture to problems presented during class

This outcome will be demonstrated by student responses to answers on examination, quizzes, in-class exercises, and group discussion problems during the class period, and a poster presentation.

Learner Responsibilities:

- I expect you to be present in class each day.
- I expect that you will treat all the students and me in the class with respect. Please, **no music players, game players, or portable phones/audible pagers** (unless you check with me before class and it is an emergency).
- I expect that you will be prepared for class each day and that you will have read the assigned material for that day
- I expect that you will not talk to other classmates during class, unless I have divided you into groups for the purpose of discussion (If you have a question about the class material please raise your hand and I'll answer your question directly).
- I expect that you will be ready to start class at the beginning of the class time and will remain in the class until the end of the class period.

Characteristics of an "A" Student:

Sometimes when a student is not doing as well in this course as they would like I hear the question, "What do I have to do to get an A?" There is no easy answer to that question, but I hope the discussion below will help you.

Although excellent students are not all the same, the following are characteristics that I have noted which are almost always present in "A" students:

- They attend class every day. Absence rates among "A" students are usually very low.
- They understand the material rather than relying upon memorization for the test. They are able to apply ideas learned in other parts of the class (and other classes) to the issues they are studying.
- They are prepared for class. They have read the assigned material before the class session and are ready to ask questions and discuss the material. Their work is on time and neat.
- They have the attitude that the primary responsibility for their learning is their own, not the instructor's. These students will do well in spite of the particular instructor in a class.
- They work well in groups. They have good communication skills and are willing to listen to the ideas of others.
- They study actively. They do not just sit and read the text. They use the study guides provided. They outline, take notes, and solve problems as they read. This helps their retention and understanding of the material.

Policy on Late Assignments:

Assignments must be turned in at the start of class on the day they are due. Late assignments will be graded -10% for each day they are late I will not accept assignments that are submitted after the corrected assignments have been returned.

Policy on Cheating:

In this course you will be working in groups and by yourself. Individual assignments, such as most of the assignments, may be discussed in a group, but **must be written individually**. Do not give your paper to someone else! Exams are closed book, closed notes, and obviously are to be your own work. You may use your own notes and Reading Guides to help you during quizzes, but quizzes must be taken individually. If individuals are found to be cheating, their names will be given to the Dean of Instruction for further action that may range from no credit in the exam/assignment to removal from the college.

Policy on Visitors in Class:

Faculty members at GRCC have been directed to not permit children of students to attend classes. I understand that sometimes it is very difficult to make daycare arrangements. However, the policy from our administration is very clear and I will have to enforce the rules. If a person is over 16 and would like to attend the class, you need to obtain permission for the visitor several days before the visit.

Special Needs:

If you believe you qualify for course adaptations or special accommodations under the Americans With Disabilities Act, it is your responsibility to contact the Disabled Students Services Coordinator in the Lindbloom Student Center (Room 271A, phone ext. 2318 and provide the appropriate documentation. If you have already documented a disability or other condition that would qualify you for special accommodations, or if you have emergency medical information or special needs I should know about, please notify me during the first week of class. You can reach me by phone at 253-833-9111, extension 4323. Or, you can schedule an office appointment to meet me in SC 221 during my posted office hours or at another mutually determined time. If this location is not convenient for you, we will schedule an alternative place for the meeting. If you use an alternative medium for communicating, let me know well in advance of the meeting (at least one week) so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged.

Cell Phone / Electronic Device Policy

Students are not allowed to use cell phones in class. Please *turn off* (or turn to “silent”) *all non-note taking devices* (wireless devices, music players, cell phones, etc.) *before* entering the classroom and keep them *stored out of sight* in your backpack, purse or pocket. Cell phones should not be used during class at any time. Usage includes answering the phone, making calls, sending and receiving text messages, browsing the internet, listening to music, taking or looking at photographs or using the phone as a calculator or timer. You might be asked to leave class for the day if you fail to follow these policies.

If there is an extenuating circumstance (e.g. on-call at work, family emergency) that requires you to be in contact via voice/text messaging, inform the instructor at the beginning of the class period. Any voice/text messaging in that case must be conducted outside of the classroom, being as silent as possible out of respect to fellow classmates and the instructor. Electronic devices are not allowed to be present during an exam. Anyone seen with a cell phone or other electronic device during the exam will fail the exam with a 0. If you have your cell phone with you during an exam it should be put in the very bottom of your backpack/purse/etc. and *never* be taken out. **If I see anyone using a cell phone/electronic device (other than a calculator) during a group activity, the whole group will be marked down by 20%.**