ESS 100: Dinosaurs

Winter 2007, Kane Hall 130, T/Th 3.30 – 4.20 pm

Teaching Team
Instructor: Prof. Liz Nesbitt, Curator of Paleontology at Burke Museum, and Professor Earth and Space Sciences Department. Email dinosaurs@ess.washington.edu Office hours: Johnson 011 (usually with fossils),

Teaching Assistants: Ruth Martin, graduate student in Earth and Space Sciences Department
Adelina Prentice, graduate student in Earth and Space Sciences Department.
Email: dinosaurs@ess.washington.edu Office hours:

TA Assistants: Greg Hammond and John Perrault, Seniors in Earth and Space Sciences Department

Class email: dinosaurs@ess.washington.edu This email will be monitored frequently each day.
To protect the rest of our work lives, we will not answer any emails sent to our regular UW addresses.

Class website http://courses.washington.edu/ess100/
The syllabus, general announcements, and grades will be posted on the class website.

Teaching & Learning Tools
RADIO FREQUENCY RESPONSE CARD (i.e. a clicker) is required for each class

But either 4th or 5th edition is just fine and there are plenty of secondhand copies around.

McGraw-Hill also provides this text as an eBook. Your can simply purchase the eBook, for $48.64 online by going to the following URL: http://ebooks.primisonline.com (click on Science, then Geology).

Course Content
This course is an overview of the current status of the paleontology of dinosaurs. Throughout the course we will ask this question: how do we know this? Thus, it will not be a huge amount of memorization of dinosaur names and bones (of course you need a good vocabulary to make sense of the subject), but knowing these things will extend your knowledge of how paleontologists work. Content includes
1. the geologic and biogeographic setting for dinosaurs through the different time periods
2. the phylogenetic history of the group and its relationship to other land animals
3. survey of the major dinosaur groups (including birds)
4. inferred physiology, behavior and ecology of some types of dinosaurs
5. extinction of the dinosaurs.

Academic goals
On completion of this course you should: be able to
• understand the fundamentals of the science of paleontology and have a broad knowledge of all the groups of dinosaurs
• have a fact-based appreciation of the Earth’s past environments and of the biological changes that resulted in these magnificent animals
• understand how we know what we know, and how we make scientific conclusions based on the data available
• be able to critically read and assess articles on paleontology topics in the public media

Exams and Grading
- Midterm exam on time schedule?
- FINAL EXAM on MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009, 12:30-02:20, KNE 130.

BE HERE ON TIME OR LOSE ALL THE CREDIT FOR THE EXAM

NOTE there will be no makeup exams except for University sanctioned events. I will require verification for such an event from the authorities at least two weeks before the exam to make you eligible to take the exam at another time.

Exam questions will be drawn from lecture material, and particularly the clicker and Moodle questions. The final exam will be comprehensive, but will focus more on the latter half of the course.

Grades: your final grade will consist of
15% for in-class (clicker) questions
15% for on-line Moodle questions,
30% for mid-term; and 40% for the final exam

extra credit options: attending Dino Day at the Burke Museum (March 7, 10am – 4 pm)

Your final grade will be based on the following grading scale:

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<th>Score</th>
<th>100-98%</th>
<th>90%</th>
<th>85%</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>75%</th>
<th>70%</th>
<th>65%</th>
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<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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Grade appeals: Exam grades will be posted on the class website as soon as possible after the exam. Although you are not allowed to keep the exam, you may come to office hours to review your paper. Grade appeals will only be considered for the period of two weeks after the grades have been posted.

Academic Honesty: In this class you are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct. Most UW students conduct themselves with integrity and are disturbed when they observe others cheating.
- Here are the university policies on academic misconduct (cheating and plagiarism)
  http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm
The information on this webpage should help you avoid unintentional misconduct and clarify the consequences of cheating. I am very serious about this so please read this webpage.

Course Concerns: If you have any concerns about the course material, procedures or personnel please contact me (Dr. Nesbitt) during office hours or email dinosaurs@ess.washington.edu to set-up a private appointment. Alerting us to your concerns when they arise allows us to address them immediately: waiting until the quarter is nearly over leaves us little room to try and help you.