

History of Life

Geology 360 sect. 001, Fall 2009

Professor: Gwen M. Daley	Meets: TR 8:00-9:15
Office: 213F	Room: Sims 202
Phone: 323-4973	Office Hours: T 9:30-11:30 and by appointment
E-mail: daleyg@winthrop.edu	Turnitin Class ID: 2784662; Password: life

Prerequisite: One college-level biology or geology course.

Objectives: To survey the first 4 billion years of life on earth and understand how major geological, biological, and extraterrestrial processes affected the biosphere through time.

Credit Hours: 3

Date	Lecture Topic (TR)	Notes
8/25	Introduction	
8/27	The fossil and sedimentary record	
9/1	Fossil preservation	
9/3	Introduction to evolution	
9/8	Origin(s) of life	
9/10	Complex life	
9/15	Exam #1	
9/17	The Achaean Earth	Homework #1 Due
9/22	The Proterozoic Earth	
9/24	Phylogenetics and cladistics	
9/29	The Cambrian Explosion	
10/1	The early Paleozoic Earth	
10/6	Exam #2	
10/8	Life on land	Homework #2 Due
10/13	The late Paleozoic Earth	
10/15	The Permian/Triassic Extinction	
10/20-10/22	<i>Fall Break / GSA Meeting - No Classes</i>	
10/27	Evolution of the Diapsida I	
10/29	Evolution of the Diapsida II	
11/3	The Triassic Earth	
11/5	Exam #3	
11/10	Bony fish, birds, flowers and vermin	Homework #3 Due
11/12	Dinosaurs I	
11/17	Dinosaurs II	
11/19	The Cretaceous Earth	
11/24	The Cretaceous/Tertiary Extinction	
11/26	<i>Thanksgiving Break - No Classes</i>	
12/1	The Paleogene Earth	
12/3	The Neogene Earth	Homework #4 Due
12/9	Final Exam (8:00 AM)	

Schedule subject to change

Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory and necessary.

Student Learning Activities Performance Measures: Grades in this class will be assigned based on the results of the following:

Exams (4)	20% each	80%
Homework Assignments (4)	5% each	20%
Total:		100%

Grades will be calculated on a straight scale:

A	90-100	C	70-76.99
B+	87-89.99	D	60-69
B	80-86.99	F	<60
C+	77-79.99		

This scale may be adjusted downward as determined by the instructor, but the points needed for each grade will never be higher than indicated above (e.g., a student with more than 90 points will always receive a grade of A).

Exams: There will be three examinations given during the semester as well as a comprehensive final exam.

Homework Assignments: You will be required to turn in a total of 4 homework assignments, each worth 5% of your final grade in Geol 360. For each assignment, you will do some scholarly research about one of the "starred" journal articles on the Geol 360 reading list (see the "Students Only" part of the Geol 360 website). The goal of the assignments is to analyze how information from other journal articles is used in your starred article, and how information your article has in turn been used by other researchers.

Student learning outcomes: Listed below are fundamental student learning outcomes for natural science courses as well as examples of how they will be fulfilled in Geol 360.

Students should be:

- Conversant with a few fundamental concepts from among the three main areas of natural science, including earth, life, and physical sciences. (e.g., evolutionary biology, paleontology and geology, *assessed through exams and homework assignments*)
- Able to apply the scientific methodologies of inquiry. (e.g., hypothesis testing and scholarship, *assessed through exams and homework assignments*)
- Able to discuss the strengths and limitations of science. (*assessed through exams*)
- Able to demonstrate an understanding of the history of scientific discovery. (e.g., the current debate about the Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction, *assessed through exams and homework assignments*)

Classroom Decorum: As a courtesy to other students, please be aware of how your behavior (e.g., holding conversations during lecture) affects the learning environment. No food of any kind is allowed in Sims 202 at any time. Also, please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices. If your cell phone goes off during lecture, you will be asked to leave. If it goes off during an exam, your exam will be collected and you will be asked to leave.

Statement on Cheating: Your grade will be based on work you have done. All homework assignments will be submitted to the Turnitin.com website to check for originality. Any attempt to submit anyone else's work as your own is plagiarism, and thus cheating. Substantially identical work submitted by more than one student will all be assigned a grade of zero and further action may be taken. Attempting to use any unauthorized material during exams (including calculators or other electronic devices) is strictly forbidden, and is cheating. Unethical behavior such as cheating will result in a grade of "F" for the course and other unpleasant action may also be taken. Please see your student handbook for more details.

Class Listserver: We will be using an e-mail listserver this semester. If you registered late for this class, or if there is any other reason that your e-mail address did not make the list, please sign up using these instructions:
<http://www.winthrop.edu/acc/default.asp?Page=pages/classlist.asp> .

Students with Disabilities: Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact Gena Smith, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 323-3290, as soon as possible. Once you have your professor notification, please tell me so that I am aware of your accommodations well before the first exam.