

1-2014

## GEO 106N.01: History of Life

George D. Stanley

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## Course Syllabus Spring, 2014

### GEOLOGY 106N - HISTORY OF LIFE

INSTRUCTOR: George Stanley email: george.stanley@umontana.edu

**Required Text:** R. Cowen - THE HISTORY OF LIFE, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (available from Bookstore)

OFFICE: C.H. Clapp 302

TELEPHONE: 243-5693

Office hours: TTh 1-3pm or by appointment

Date	Subject	Assigned Chapter Reading
Jan 27	Introduction to course	---
29	Darwin and evolution	Bower reading
31	Fossils and the origin of life	1
Feb 03	Earth's earliest rocks	2
05	Practical 1: Earliest life	2
07	The origin of sex: Eukaryotes	3
10	Metazoans: Start of multicellular life	4
12	Metazoan radiation	5
14	Practical 2: Metazoan life	5
17	<b>NO CLASS</b> President's Day	
19	Practical 2 continued	5
21	The Burgess Shale and Chengjiang biota	5
24	Life in a changing world	6
26	Mass Extinction	6
28	The first vertebrates	7
Mar 03	Practical 3: Vertebrates	7
05	Practical 3 continued	7
07	Life moves to the land	8
10	Land continued	8
12	Tetrapods and amniotes	9
14	Thermoregulation	10
17	Practical 4: Thermoregulation	10
19	The Triassic takeover	11
21	Dinosaurs	12
24	Dinosaurs	12
26	Practical 5: Dinosaurs	12
28	Hour exam	

31	SPRING BREAK–no class meeting	
Apr 02	SPRING BREAK–no class meeting	
04	SPRING BREAK–no class meeting	
07	The origin of flight (practical 5 due)	14
09	Flight continued	14
11	Mammals and their origin	15
14	What killed dinosaurs	16
16	Mammals and Cenozoic guilds	17
18	Cenozoic guilds continued	17
21	Practical 6: Mammals	15 & 17
23	Practical 6 continued	15 & 17
25	Ancient paleogeography & evolution	18
28	Primates	19
30	Hominids evolution toward humans	20
May 02	Practical 7: Hominids	20
05	The Ice Age	20
07	Humans and the future of life	21
09	Course review	--
12	Final exam scheduled for 3:20-5:20	

#### GRADING BASIS FOR COURSE

Hour exam	20%
Seven practical exercises (you may omit one or lowest score will be dropped)	30%
Chapter questions (may omit one or lowest score dropped)	10%
Final exam (comprehensive)	40%

The web site on page 1 of your book has supplementary material Also see:

<http://www-geology.ucdavis.edu/~cowen/HistoryofLife/>

Check it out and use these web sites as they contain useful information keyed to your text chapters.

Read the conduct code which will be enforced in this class.

#### The University of Montana Student Conduct Code

*Academic dishonesty is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at:*

<http://www.umt.edu/self-study2010/std3/Std3Exhibits/RE3-01/StudentConductCode.pdf>

**Course Description:** This class is an introduction to paleobiology and the evolution of life. There will be an assignment every week. Lab practicals follow the lectures and are devoted to hands-on work with rocks, earth materials and models. The objective of the course is to introduce you to the basic concepts of paleobiology and the fascinating history of life on our planet. Emphasis will be on observation and description, the building of a “history of life toolbox” and application of these skills in interpreting the history of life.

**Chapter question assignments:** are to be turned in **at the start of class**. These will help prepare you for the lab topic so that you can complete the lab efficiently during your scheduled class period.

**Labs:** these practicals are designed for “hands on” experience in the history of life. You should be able to mostly complete and turn them in at the end of each class. This is much more likely to occur **if you have not read the assigned reading and material handed out in advance** of your scheduled lab. Labs are due at the start of the next lecture meeting. Points deducted for late turn in and no credit given if you fail to turn in lab assignments before the start of the third class meeting following the distribution of the material.

You are encouraged to work together during the lab practicals with other students in class, but must physically hand in your own completed work, written in your own words, by the deadline. Copying another student’s lab response is a form of academic dishonesty, and will not be tolerated.

**Attendance:**

Attendance is required for successful completion of course as is reading and completing practicals and chapter questions. If you are sick or need an excused absence, please inform instructor ahead of time if possible.

*Official UM policy: “Students are expected to attend all class meetings and complete all assignments for the course. Instructors may excuse brief and occasional absences for reasons of illness, injury, family emergency, religious observance or participation in a University sponsored activity. (University sponsored activities include for example, field trips, ASUM service, music or drama performances, and intercollegiate athletics.) Instructors shall excuse absences for reasons of military service or mandatory public service.”*

**Missing lab during the term:**

**The number one reason for failing this class is missing labs!** If you must miss a practical lab for a reason acceptable to your instructor, **you must make arrangements for making it up prior to your scheduled lab time.**

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

A	93-100%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%
B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	59 or below

Please note: You must take the class with traditional grading to apply it towards the Gen Ed lab science requirement. A minimum grade of C- must be earned for the course to be applied for the Gen Ed requirement.