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GEO 311.01: Paleobiology

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Course Syllabus Spring, 2014

GEOS 311 - PALEOBIOLOGY

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

Required Text: P.N.W. Jackson Introducing Palaeontology (available from Bookstore)

OFFICE: C.H. Clapp 302

TELEPHONE: 243-5693

Office hours: TTh 1-3 or by appointment

Date	Subject and Practicals	Assigned Readings
Jan 27	Introduction to the course	--
29	Fossils and early ideas about them	1.1 & 1.8
31	Preservation of fossils	1.2 + handout
Feb 03	Preservation of fossils practical	1.2
05	Taxonomy and classification of fossils	1.5
07	Use of fossils in geology and biology	1.6
10	Use of fossils in geology and biology	1.6
12	Use of fossils and evolution	1.6
14	From the field to the publication	1.3-1.4
17	NO CLASS President's Day	--
19	Fossils and their curation for research	TBA
21	NAPC 2014 topics for research	TBA
24	Lagerstätten – unusual preservation of fossils	1.7
26	Sponges	2.3
28	Cnidaria	2.4
Mar 03	Cnidaria and reefs	2.4 + reading
05	Sponges and cnidarians practical	2.4
07	Bryozoans	2.5
10	Mollusks	2.6
12	Mollusks	
14	Mollusk review practical	2.6
17	One hour Mid-Term Exam	--
19	Brachiopods	2.7
21	Brachiopod review practical	2.7
24	Echinodermata	2.8
26	Echinodermata	2.8
28	The Echinoderm review practical	2.8
31	SPRING BREAK —no class meeting	

Apr 02	SPRING BREAK–no class meeting		
04	SPRING BREAK–no class meeting		
07	Arthropods		2.9
09	Arthropods		2.9
11	Arthropod	practical	2.9
14	Graptolites		2.10
16	Graptolites review	practical	2.10
18	Conodonts and vertebrates		2.11-2.13
21	Vertebrates continued		2.13
23	Vertebrates continued		2.13
25	Vertebrate review	practical	2.13
28	Trace fossils		2.18
30	Trace fossil review	practical	2.18
May 02	Student presentations start		TBA
05	Student presentations continue		TBA
07	The course in review		
09	Final student presentations & Term papers due		TBA
12	Final exam scheduled for 3:20-5:20		

Basis for grading:

Nine lab practical exercises (one may be omitted)	32%
Mid-term exam	20%
Student presentations	08%
Final exam (comprehensive)	30%
Field trip to collect fossils (TBA)	10%

Grading scale:

A= 100-90%
B= 89-80%
C= 79-70%
D= 69-60%
F= below 60%