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### GEO 106N.01: History of Life

George D. Stanley

University of Montana - Missoula, [george.stanley@umontana.edu](mailto:george.stanley@umontana.edu)

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## Course Syllabus Spring, 2015

### 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 26	Introduction to the course	---
28	Evolution and how paleobiology works	Bower article + pages 1-2 text
30	Humans and life on Earth	TBA
Feb 02	The origin of life	1
04	Earth's earliest rocks	2
06	Practical 1: Earliest life	2
09	The origin of sex: Eukaryotes	3
11	Metazoans: Start of multicellular life	4
13	Metazoan radiation (Practical 1 due)	5
16	<b>NO CLASS</b> President's Day	
18	The Burgess Shale and Chengjiang biota	5
20	Practical 2 Metazoan life	5
23	Practical 2 continued	5
25	Life in a changing world	6
27	Mass Extinction	6
Mar 02	The first vertebrates (Practical 2 due)	7
04	Practical 3: Vertebrates	7
06	Practical 3 continued	7
09	Life moves to the land	8
11	Land continued	8
13	Tetrapods and amniotes (Practical 3 due)	9
16	Thermoregulation	10
18	Practical 4: Thermoregulation	10
20	The Triassic takeover (Practical 4 due)	11
23	First Exam on all topics above	--
25	Dinosaurs	12
27	Dinosaurs continued	12

30	SPRING BREAK–no class meeting		
Apr 01	SPRING BREAK–no class meeting		
03	SPRING BREAK–no class meeting		
06	Practical 5: Dinosaurs	12	
08	Practical 5 continued	12	
10	Origin of flight	13	
13	Mammals and their origin	15	
15	What killed dinosaurs? (Practical 5 due)	16	
17	Mammals and Cenozoic guilds	17	
20	Cenozoic guilds continued	17	
22	Practical 6: Mammals	15 & 17	
24	Practical 6 continued	15 & 17	
27	Ancient paleogeography & evolution	18	
29	Primates (Practical 6 due)	19	
May 01	Hominids toward humans	20	
04	Practical 7: Hominids	20	
06	The Ice Ages	21	
08	Course review (Practical 7 due)		--
14	Final exam scheduled for 3:20-5:20		

#### GRADING BASIS FOR COURSE

First exam (50 minutes)	20%
Seven practical exercises (one may be dropped)	30%
Chapter questions (may omit one)	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 course is to introduce you to paleobiology and the fascinating history of life on our planet. The learning objectives are to gain an understanding of the principles of evolution and earth history. Emphasis will be on observation, description and application of these skills in interpreting and understanding the history of life. There will be chapter question assignments, labs (called practicals).

**Chapter questions:** due before the start of class the day due or points deducted.

**Practicals:** These “lab” experiences provide “hands-on ” work with fossils, exhibits, rocks and earth materials and follow topics covered in lectures and readings. Due dates are in syllabus. To prepare, **read assigned chapters and distributed materials**. Practical are due on the class meeting indicated in the syllabus. They must be physically turned in **before the start of the class** on date indicated. After that time points deducted. For unexcused delay, late points deducted each day late and no credit given one week beyond due date. You are encouraged to work together to learn but your completed practicals are your own work for which you are graded. If you have an excused absence, please give it to the instructor. Be aware that copying from another student’s work in all assignments is a form of academic dishonesty, and will not be tolerated. If you have questions please contact the instructor.

**Attendance:**

Attendance is required for successful completion of the course as is reading, returning practicals, chapter questions and group participation. For illness or a valid excused absence, please inform instructor.

*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 attendance during the term:**

**The number one reason for failing this class is non-attendance and missed practicals! If you have an excused absence and miss assignments you must make arrangements with instructor for making them up.**

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 Natural Science laboratory experience requirement. The minimum grade of C- must be earned for the course to be applied for the Gen Ed requirement.