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Spring 2-1-2006

GEOL106N.01: The History of Life

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GEOLOGY 106 HISTORY OF LIFE
Spring 2006

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Required Text: R. Cowen: THE HISTORY OF LIFE 4th Edition (available from bookstore)

Office Hours (fill in): _____

DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNED
Jan 23	Introduction to class, geologic time, Darwin, evolution and the new view of life	Gould, 1994 Pojeta and Springer
25	Evolution continued	
30	Fossils / origin of life	chapter 1
Feb 01	Practical 1 / Life=s earliest rocks	chapter 2
06	Practical 2 / Evolution of sex and eukaryotes	chapter 3
08	Metazoans and the great explosion of life	chapters 4 & 5
13	The Burgess Shale / Chengjiang biota	Conway-Morris, 1997+ Hagadorn, 2002
15	Group Discussion (above themes) / Practical 3	Reading TBA
20	Presidents= Day Holiday	No class meeting
22	A changing world & mass extinctions/ Practical 4	chapter 6

	27	The first vertebrates / Practical 5	chapter 7
Mar	01	First Exam / Life and how it moved to land	chapter 8
	06	Reptiles and amphibians/heat regulation	chapters 9 & 10
	08	Practical 6 / The Triassic takeover	chapter 11
	13	Dinosaurs and the new view of these creatures	chapter 12
5		Dinosaurs continued / Practical 7	chapter 12
	20	Practical 7 continued / The evolution of flight	chapter 13
	22	The Mesozoic modernization of life	chapter 14
	27	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS MEETINGS	
9		THIS WEEK	
Apr	03	Mammals / Mammal Practical 8	chapter 15
	05	What killed the dinosaurs?	chapter 16
	10	Cenozoic mammals and ecologic guilds / Practical 9	chapter 17
	12	Practical 9 cont. / Ancient geography and evolution	chapter 18
	17	Plate tectonics and the evolution of life	Nance et al.
	19	Primates and their evolution	chapter 19
	24	Becoming human: hominids in Africa/ Practical 10	chapter 20
	26	Practical 10 continued / more hominids	chapter 20

May 01	Ice Ages and climate change / Humans today and the Anext@ extinction	chapter 21
03	Wrap up, review and evaluation of the history of life	B B
MAY 11	FINAL EXAM (comprehensive)	3:20-5:20 pm

GRADING BASIS FOR COURSE

Attendance is required as is reading of assignments and participation in group discussion. You will be graded as a group for the group discussion (see CLASS GROUP DISCUSSION).

First exam	20%
Practical exercises (any 9 may drop one or drop lowest grade)	27%
Chapter questions (using web site)	20%
Participation in group discussion	3%
Final exam (comprehensive)	30%

University of Montana Honor Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to 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/SA/VP/SA/index.cfm/page/1321>