GLY1101: THE HISTORY OF LIFE

Fall 2009
M, W, F, 1:00 - 1:50
Instructor: Professor Jose F. Longoria

Contact Information:
www.fiu.edu/~longoria
Department of Earth Sciences
Office: PC 321
Office Hours: M&W 2:00 – 3:00, or by appointment
e-mail: longoria@fiu.edu

What is History of life?

HOL is a natural science course that covers biological and geological principles including the theory of evolution, the theory of plate tectonics, and fundamental principles of paleontology. Those aspects of natural science are used to interpret the history of life (life of the past) through time and space.

The evolutionary history of major groups of organisms is analyzed, including the origin of animals and plants as well as the evolution of invertebrates and vertebrates, and major events of life on earth such as the origin of life and the invasion of organisms on land, mass extinctions, and the Ice Age.

The course is organized following the evolutionary trends of major groups of biota in the frame of geologic time from simple (primitive) to more complex forms.

Course Objective

The objective of this course is to expose students to biological and geological process and principles that have shaped life on Earth, and to study life forms and their evolution through time from their first appearance to their diversification and extinction. The origin and evolution of humans is also included.

Textbooks

Required Text:

Supplementary Texts:

Course Policies

The course is based mainly on the lectures. The topics of the lectures are also covered in the textbook, although lectures include material not covered in the textbook, and the textbook includes material not covered in the lectures. If you rely on the textbook without attending lectures, you will not receive all of the information that is covered on the exams. Also material cover in audio-visuals (DVDs, videos tapes,
GLY1101: The History of Life

Exams and Grading

Exams will take place as scheduled (see weekly schedule below) unless university classes are cancelled. The format of the regular and final exams is multiple choice. The regular exams and the final exam count 100 points each. They are to be finished in 40 minutes and cover all lectures and the corresponding material in the textbook and documentaries (DVDs and video tapes) covered since the previous exam. The final exam covers all lectures and corresponding textbook material not covered in the previous exams. The three exams have equal weight; that is, 33 per cent each.

Makeup Exams. In most cases, if you miss an exam you earn a 0. Makeup exams will be given only in extreme circumstances and if you have valid, documentable proof justifying your absence, such as a doctor's note explaining a bad illness, police report verifying a car accident or a death certificate of an immediate family member. University sponsored events away from campus, family trips out of town and a car that wouldn't start do not qualify for makeup exams. In the case of a valid reason that can be documented for missing an exam, you will be given a makeup exam at the end of the semester at the scheduled and no other date or time, you must review the course schedule to be aware of this date, which will be two week before the final exam. In such a case, you must contact the professor as soon as possible after missing the exam. The format of makeup exams is essay and short answer. Note about exam times: In keeping with university policy, accommodations for students who wish to observe their religious holidays will try to be made. Students should make these requests known at the beginning of the semester. If you are scheduled to be away for any reason during a scheduled exam, you should not take this course. If you have a time conflict with the final exam (see http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/register/final.htm for possible conflicts) do not take this course. It is your sole responsibility to function well in this class, do not expect any special consideration if you are overloaded with courses or overcommitted with personal activities.

Extra Credit. During the semester there will be opportunities during class to earn extra credit by answering questions based on the last several lectures. This is the ONLY form of extra credit.

Grading. Final grade in GLY1101 results from the average of the three exams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-95</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-85</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-75</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-65</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WEEKLY CALENDAR

Week 1: 8/24, 8/26, 8/28
   Introduction || Course Setup || Headcount || Syllabus:
   Organization and expectations, Lecture Materials + ch 1
Week 2: 8/31, 9/2, 9/4
   Earth Materials, Lecture Materials + ch2, ch 6
Week 3: 9/7, 9/9, 9/11
   Biological Principles, Lecture Materials + ch 5
Week 4: 9/14, 9/16, 9/18
   Geological Principles, Lecture Materials + ch 3, ch 7
Week 5: 9/21, 9/23, 9/25
   Paleontology Principles: fossils and fossilization, Lecture Materials + ch 4
**Review for Exam 1, 9/23**
**EXAM 1: Friday, 9/25**

Week 6: 9/28, 9/30, 10/2
   Precambrian: Archean, Lecture Materials + ch 8
Week 7: 10/5, 10/7, 10/9
   Proterozoic: Ediacara Fauna, Lecture Materials + ch 9
Week 8: 10/12, 10/14, 10/16
Week 9: 10/19, 10/21, 10/23
   Middle Paleozoic, Lecture Materials + ch10
Week 10: 10/25, 10/28, 10/30
   Upper Paleozoic, Lecture Materials + ch10
**Review for Exam 2, 10/28**
**EXAM 2: 10/30:**

Week 11: 11/2, 11/4, 11/6
   Lower Mesozoic: major events of life, Lecture Materials + ch 11
Week 12: 11/9, 11/11, 11/13
   Upper Mesozoic life, Lecture Materials + ch 11
Week 13: 11/16, 11/17, 11/20
   The Cenozoic - Paleogene, Lecture Materials + ch 12
**MAKEUP EXAMS: 11/20 in PC321 at 2:00 PM**

Week 14: 11/23, 11/25
   Neogene, Lecture Materials + ch 12
   11/27 thanksgiving, no class
Week 15: 11/30, 12/2, 12/4
   Neogene: Human Evolution, Lecture Materials + ch 12
**Review for exam 3, 12/4**
Week 16: 12/8 - 12/13: Finals Week.
**EXAM 3: Check the academic calendar for official date and time**