

GLY1101: THE HISTORY OF LIFE

Fall 2009

M, W, F, 1:00 - 1:50

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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.

The course is divided into three parts or sections to facilitate the understanding of all the topics included.

Part 1: Weeks 1-5. Textbook chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Deals with the fundamental principles of biology, geology, and paleontology. The concept of fossil and fossilization, and the study of primitive life forms are included in the first part.

Part 2: Weeks 6-10. Textbook chapters 8, 9, 10. Deals with more advanced forms of the Paleozoic and Mesozoic Eras.

Part 3: Weeks 11-15. Textbook chapters 11, 12. Covers the more advanced life forms of the Cenozoic Era and of the Recent as well as the origin and evolution of humans.

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:

-Loren E. Babcock, 2009, Visualizing Earth History, Wiley. ISBN-13-978-0-471-72490-2

Supplementary Texts:

-Ausich, William I., and Lane, N. Gary, 1999, Life of the Past: Prentice Hall, 4th ed.

-B.W. Murck, B.J. Skinner, D. Mackenzie, 2008, Visualizing Geology, Second edition: Wiley, ISBN-13-978-0-470-41947-2

-P.D. Ward and D. Brownlee, 2002, The Life and Death of Planet Earth, Owl Books, ISBN-13-978-0-0850-7512-0

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 covered in audio-visuals (DVDs, videos tapes,

and websites) will be considered for the exams. It is extremely rare that a student who does not regularly attend the lectures will learn enough to get a final grade of beyond C. This includes students who make arrangements for others to take notes for them, because other people's notes are not usually as useful as your own.

You are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty. Any student found in violation of these standards will earn an automatic F and be reported to the Dean's Office, no exceptions made. In

accordance with FIU's policy on academic honesty, as set forth in Section 2.44 of the Academic Affairs Policies and Procedures Manual (<http://academic.fiu.edu/polman/sec2web.htm#two-forty-four>), it is expected that students in this class will neither submit the academic work of another as their own, nor provide work they have done for another student to be submitted as that other student's work.

Students are required to attend all the lectures and to stay for the entire lecture period. Discipline during the lecture will be strictly enforced: No disruption of lecture will be tolerated.

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.

My grading policy is as follows:

96-100	A
90-95	A-
86-89	B+
83-85	B
80-82	B-
76-79	C+
73-75	C
70-72	C-
66-69	D+
63-65	D
60-62	D-
<60	F

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

Lower Paleozoic: The Cambrian Revolution early Paleozoic life, Lecture Materials + ch10

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