

**Syllabus GLY3603c (class periods)**  
**Paleontology**  
**Sections 013 & 042B**  
**4 credits incl. lab**  
**Spring 2015**

---

**Instructor:** Dr. Adiël A. Klompmaker  
**Lab Instructor:** Alexis Rojas  
**Office:** 226 Dickinson Hall  
**E-mail:** aklompmaker@flmnh.ufl.edu  
**Phone:** 352 273 1939  
**Class period:** MWF 3rd period (9:35 – 10:25 AM)  
**Class venue:** 202 Williamson Hall  
**Office hours:** any time Monday – Friday, Dickinson Hall

---

### **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to **Paleontology**! This course consists of three class periods per week and a lab section (details about the lab in separate syllabus). During the class periods, we will cover many topics focusing on an examination of the fossil record and its uses. Whereas the labs will focus mostly on particular fossil groups, the class periods will provide you with an advanced understanding of overarching concepts. Specifically, you will be introduced first to some basic concepts such as how fossils are preserved and how species are recognized and named (systematics). We then cover a variety of uses of fossils such as for biostratigraphy, deciphering evolution, reconstructing their paleoecology, inferring past climates as well as studying functional morphology, biogeography, biodiversity and extinction events, and behavior using trace fossils. You will also get the opportunity to be involved in a variety of activities such as field trips, create a scientific poster, learn about various collections and research in the Florida Museum of Natural History, discuss primary literature, and perform research.

### **TEXTBOOK**

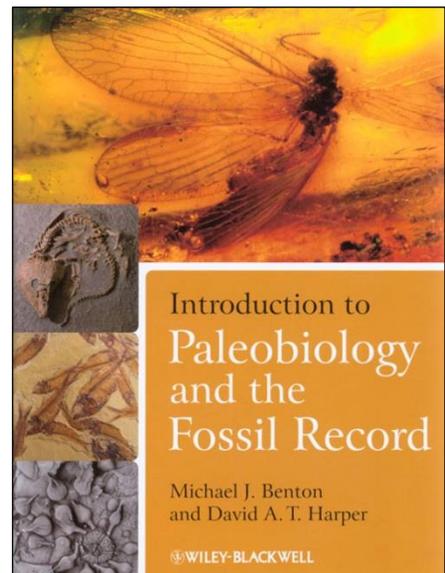
Name: **Introduction to Paleobiology and the Fossil Record**  
Author: **Michael J. Benton & David A. T. Harper.**  
Edition: **1st edition**  
Publisher: **Wiley-Blackwell**  
ISBN-10: **1405141573**  
ISBN-13: **978-1405141574**

### **GRADING POLICY COURSE**

Lab: 35%  
Class: 65%

Class grade will be determined as follows:

- Midterms (2 × 20%)
- Quizzes (3 × 2.5%)
- Research presentation + report (30%)
- Presentation poster (10%)



- Species description (7.5%)
- Attendance and participation exercises (5%)

**Final Grades:**

A: 90.00 – 100%	A-: 88.00 – 89.99%	
B+: 86.00 – 87.99%	B: 80.00 – 85.99%	B-: 78.00 – 79.99%
C+: 76.00 – 77.99%	C: 70.00 – 75.99%	C-: 68.00 – 69.99%
D+: 66.00 – 67.99%	D: 60.00 – 65.99%	D-: 58.00 – 59.99%
E: < 58.00%		

**EXAMINATIONS**

**Tests:** Quizzes (except for the time scale quiz) consist of 10 multiple choice questions about the previous four class periods. The midterms consist of a combination of multiple choice, diagram-related, and short answer questions. The midterms will cover the material from that particular part of the class. Cellphones, I-Phones, I-Pods, MP3 players, Blackberries, PDAs, Laptops, and other electronic devices are not permitted to be visible to the instructor or other students or to be used during any test. Any student in violation of this statement will receive a “0” for the test.

**Make-up Mid-terms & other Activities:** Excuses will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. If other classes are scheduled during a test time, the instructor will provide make-up class work for students who miss class because of an assembly test. Other reasons are at my discretion. If at all possible, let me know ahead of time if you must miss a test. In all cases, I must have your documentation within two days following the test. If you fail to notify me by then, no make-up will be offered. The make-up test may be of a different format or structure than the original exam.

**Attendance/Participation:** Attendance and participation is highly recommended as it makes up 5% of your final grade. Moreover, you will prepare already for the exam just by attending and participating in the activities.

**A FEW TIPS FOR DOING WELL IN THIS COURSE**

- Note that *Historical Geology* (GLY2100c, taught this semester) and *Evolution of the Earth and Life in North America* (GLY 3105c, taught each Fall) discuss some fossil groups as well, but these courses have a very different focus. Although having completed one of these courses is beneficial, it is anticipated that it is not required in order to succeed in this class.
- Be prepared to read the textbook, preferably before the class period.
- Take notes during the class period, as not everything will be spelled out on the Powerpoint slides. I intend to upload a PDF of the final to near final slides on e-Learning (Canvas) on the evening prior to the lecture so that you can print them out and use it to take notes on during the class period. This is the best way of learning the material.
- You are very welcome to ask questions during the class period, after the class period, per email, or during office hours. If you do not ask questions, I can only assume that you understood the material covered in class.

## **EMAIL ETIQUETTE AND POLICY**

If you email me and I receive the email, I will respond. If you do not receive an answer from me, then I did not receive your email. I will do my best to respond to your email within 24 hours. It is best for you to email me from your ufl.edu email address. Other addresses may get flagged as spam.

## **IN CLASS REGULATIONS**

Please be courteous to those around you, and take care of the classroom. You may bring in water bottles, but save snacks for before or after class. If you are eating food, you will be asked to leave. All electronic devices must be turned off, put away, and out of sight during class. Exceptions may be made for laptop computers, audio recorders, etc., but only if allowed and needed for class activities.

## **REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines cannot attend classes and cannot receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student should confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule prior to the deadline indicated below. Important dates:

- January 6-12: Drop/Add (11:59 pm of last day)
- January 12: Withdrawal with no Fee Liability (11:59 pm)
- January 30: Withdrawal, All Courses, with 25% Refund (W assigned)
- April 10: Drop and withdrawal deadline, W assigned (11:59 pm)

For more dates see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/Pages/adspring1415.aspx>

## **CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

The University of Florida has a Student Conduct and Honor Code dealing, for example, with issues such as academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism. None of these will be tolerated in this class. The sanctions provided will be used to deal with any violations. If you have any questions, please read more about the policy at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The University of Florida is committed to providing academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students should present their accommodation letter to me supporting a request for accommodations. The University encourages students with disabilities to follow these procedures as early as possible within the semester.

## Spring 2015 schedule Paleontology

This schedule may change as circumstances dictate.

Week	Day	Date	Class period topic	Special activities	Reading for Lecture
1	M	5-Jan	<i>Holiday</i>		
	W	7-Jan	Syllabus + Intro class	Exercise Paleo & The media	Ch 1: 1-21
	F	9-Jan			
2	M	12-Jan	Fossilization and Taphonomy	Exercise Paleo & The media	Ch 3: 57-78
	W	14-Jan			
	F	16-Jan		Quiz time scale	
3	M	19-Jan	<i>M.L. King Jr. Day</i>		
	W	21-Jan	Variation, Species Problem, Taxonomy & Systematics		PDFs assigned readings
	F	23-Jan			
4	M	26-Jan		Project describing species	
	W	28-Jan	Biostratigraphy		Ch 2: 22-56 + PDF
	F	30-Jan			
	S	31-Jan	<b>Field work (1 day)</b>	Haile Quarries, Florida	Portell & Hulbert, 2011
5	M	2-Feb	<i>Work on species description</i>		
	W	4-Feb	Posters & Presentations	Explanation poster assignment	Block, 1996; Keegan & Bannister, 2003
	F	6-Feb		Poster exercise in museum	
6	M	9-Feb	(Macro)evolution		Ch. 5: 116-136
	W	11-Feb			
	F	13-Feb		Paper discussion	
7	M	16-Feb	Paleoecology incl. communities, predation, reefs		Ch. 4: 79-103
	W	18-Feb		Quiz	
	F	20-Feb			
8	M	23-Feb	Poster presentations: Taxonomic groups	Turn in species description on Wed 23:59 pm at the latest	
	W	25-Feb			
	F	27-Feb	<b>Midterm 1</b>		
9	M	2-Mar	<i>Spring Break</i>		
	W	4-Mar			
	F	6-Mar			
10	M	9-Mar	Paleoclimatology	Research Project Intro + Field trip info	Ch. 4: 103-115
	W	11-Mar			
	R	12-Mar	<b>Field work (2 full days)</b>	Panhandle Florida (backup plan dates are 9-10 April)	Assigned readings
	F	13-Mar			
11	M	16-Mar	<i>Tour invert. paleontology</i>	Tour in collections + exercise	
	W	18-Mar	<i>Work on research project + field trip report</i>		
	F	20-Mar			
12	M	23-Mar	Biogeography	Turn in outline research project	Assigned readings
	W	25-Mar		Paper discussion	
	F	27-Mar	Functional morphology	Turn in field trip report	Ch. 6: 137-161

13	M	30-Mar	Extinction and diversification in the past and today		Ch. 7: p. 162-182 + Ch. 20: p. 533-553 + Assigned readings
	W	1-Apr			
	F	3-Apr		Paper discussion	
14	M	6-Apr			
	W	8-Apr		Quiz	
	F	10-Apr	<i>Tour paleobotany + vert. paleo</i>	Tour in collections	
15	M	13-Apr	Trace fossils and behavior		Ch. 19: p. 509-532
	W	15-Apr			
	F	17-Apr	<b>Midterm 2</b>		
16	M	20-Apr	Presentations Research		
	W	22-Apr		Reports due at 23:59 pm	
	F	24-Apr	<i>Reading Day</i>		