

Dinosaurs of Colorado

GEY 130

Class time and dates: Saturdays, April 18 and May 2, 2015, 8:00 am – 5:30 pm; and Sundays, April 19 and May 3, 2015, 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm. **Note that there is a one-weekend ‘break’ between the class weekends.**

Class Location: West Building 2573

Course Description: Introduces the evolutionary history of dinosaurs, with special emphasis on the Mesozoic environment in Colorado, the dinosaurs that inhabited it, and the history of their discovery.

Instructor: Dr. F. Nicole Peavey, Ph.D.

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There is no required text for this class. A portable notebook or clipboard on which to take notes during the field portion of the class is strongly recommended. **Students will need to make their own transportation arrangements to Dinosaur Ridge** (carpooling is encouraged).

Course Objectives: Upon completion of GEY 130, students will be able to:

1. Define the word dinosaur and identify the differences between dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures.
2. Apply fundamental paleontological principles to the study of dinosaurs.
3. Describe important discoveries in the history of dinosaur paleontology
4. Describe the Colorado paleoenvironment during the periods of the Mesozoic.
5. Classify common Colorado dinosaurs by major groups.
6. Identify the circumstances that led to the success and ultimate extinction of the non-avian dinosaurs.

Evaluation Methods:

Attendance = 20 points

Participation = 20 points

Group activity work = 20 points

In-class mini-quizzes = 10 points

Final presentation assignment = 30 points

TOTAL = 100 points

Grading Policy:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 0-59

Evaluation:

Latecomers will lose their attendance points (up to 5 points per day of class).

Participation credit will be awarded at 5 points per day for being attentive, participating in discussions, and responding to instructor prompts. Points may be deducted for napping in class or otherwise 'checking out.'

In-class worksheets will be submitted to the instructor for grading. Points may be reduced for an individual if it becomes apparent that the individual is not contributing to the group.

Understanding of the subject matter will be periodically evaluated with short, 1-2 question quizzes worth a small number of points, totaling 10 throughout the class.

A 10-15 minute presentation on a Dinosaur-related topic of the student's choice (subject to instructor approval) will take the place of a final examination, and will be presented on the last day of class (Sunday, September 30). Further instructions and a grading rubric will be provided when the assignment is given.

General Policies

Attendance Policy: Because of the short-term nature of GEY 130, attendance is absolutely required for all class days, and any missed quizzes or assignments may not be made up. Students are responsible for ensuring that they do not have previous commitments on class days. **Latecomers will have their attendance/participation grade reduced by up to the maximum for the day.** Incompletes will not be given; students who find themselves unable to attend class for emergency reasons will be responsible for initiating the drop or withdrawal process to prevent a grade of "F" being recorded for the class.

Assignments Policy: Due to very tight grade submission deadlines for weekend classes, all assignments must be submitted by their stated deadlines, and **NO credit, either full or partial, will be awarded for late assignments.** Students with deadline accommodations requested by the Office of Disability Services may have a separate agreed-upon deadline, but will not receive any credit for assignments submitted after that deadline.

In the event of a documented medical emergency that may prevent on-time completion of an assignment, the instructor should be contacted as soon as possible via an email stating the nature of the delay so that appropriate accommodations may be made and thoroughly documented with the college.

Academic Integrity (From: RRCC Student Handbook): The College is an academic community. Its fundamental purpose is the pursuit of knowledge. Like all other communities, the College can function properly only if its members adhere to clearly established goals and values. Essential to the fundamental purpose of the College is the commitment to the principles of truth and academic honesty. Accordingly, The Student Code of Conduct is designed to ensure that the principle of academic honesty is upheld. Everyone associated with the College's academic community has a responsibility for establishing, maintaining, and fostering academic integrity. Anyone who becomes aware of an incident of academic dishonesty should report the occurrence to a faculty member, department chair, or administrator.

Those committing academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary actions which may include failing the assignment and/or the course, and/or being suspended or expelled from the college. Disciplinary procedures are outlined in Student Code of Conduct. Guidelines for the definition of cheating (Article I.I.) and plagiarism (Article I.J.) can also be found in the Student Code of Conduct.

The following are some principles associated with academic integrity:

- Cite (give credit for) words and/or ideas that are not your own
- Use information, computer programs, others' work, study aids, and/or other materials only when permitted by your instructor
- Remove materials from the library, labs, and other college facilities only when an official representative of the college grants permission
- Use copyrighted materials only with permission
- Refuse to help anyone commit an act of academic dishonesty
- Use only the resources specifically allowed when completing a test or other assignment

Learning or physical disability: ADAAA (Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Red Rocks Community College is committed to access for students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and need assistance or are interested in requesting accommodations, please contact Accessibility Services. Faculty are not obligated to provide accommodations without proper notification by Accessibility Services and accommodations are not retroactive. Students may contact the Access staff by telephone or email to make an intake appointment at 303-914-6733 or access@rrcc.edu. Accessibility Services is located in Suite 1182 at the Lakewood campus. More information is available at www.rrcc.edu/accessibility-services.

Student Grievances: Please consult the Student Handbook.

Student Publications: *Claro*, RRCC's scholarly journal, publishes students' high-quality academic work. Publications look great on scholarship applications and resumes. If you feel that you have done superior work on an assignment for this class, ask me if I would consider submitting it to *Claro*! *Claro* accepts any type of academic work, including research papers, charts/graphs, reports, reviews, websites, videos, etc. Go to www.rrcc.edu/claro to view online versions of the last two editions.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Saturday, April 18

8:00 am – 5:30 pm

Introductions

Defining Dinosaurs

Evolution, Classification and Naming

History of Dinosaur Discovery

Studying Dinosaurs and Protecting Fossil Resources

Lunch: *12:00pm – 1:00pm*

Sunday, April 19

12:30 pm – 5:30pm

Field trip at Dinosaur Ridge:

Geologic Time

Paleoenvironments

Kinds of Fossils

The Fossilization Process

Field Trip assessment

Saturday, May 2

8:00 am – 5:30 pm

Dinosaurs of Colorado and the Mesozoic Environment

Dinosaur size, color, and speed—how we know what we know

Success and extinction of the dinosaurs

Lunch: *12:00pm – 1:00pm*

Sunday, May 3

12:30 pm – 5:30pm

In-class presentations

Wrap-up and Feedback

Instructor Evaluations

Statement of Understanding of Syllabus Content

I, (student name, printed) _____,
certify that I have read and understood the syllabus for GEY 130 (Dinosaurs of Colorado), and
that I will abide by the policies stated therein. I take responsibility for knowing the class times
and assignment deadlines for this class, and I understand that missing these class times and
deadlines may result in a reduced or failing grade.

(Student Signature) _____

Please sign and detach this statement and submit to the instructor.

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Field Trip Information

Sunday's field trip will take place at Dinosaur Ridge, a protected fossil site along Alameda Parkway just west of Lakewood. Here are a few things to consider before the field trip begins:

- We will be meeting in the Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center parking lot at 12:30 pm on Sunday, April 19. The Dinosaur Ridge staff have requested that we use the ample roadside parking instead of the paved lot, which fills up quickly. **Carpooling is encouraged**, but be aware that the instructor may not transport students according to RRCC policy. Please plan ahead! I will take roll at 12:45 pm at Dinosaur Ridge. There are some benches under the trees by the stegosaurus—it's a good place to congregate.
- The trail we will be walking is about a mile long, most of it up a slight incline. It is a one-way trail, so the total distance walked will be approximately 2 miles over about 3 hours. We will be walking slowly and stopping at frequent intervals, but please come prepared for moderate hiking and standing. Good shoes, preferably closed-toed, are a must. Dress for the weather--we will be going, rain or shine! (*I will let the class know via email if extreme weather prevents the field trip from taking place or causes other changes to the schedule—make sure you check your school email!*) **It is highly recommended that you bring water and sunscreen.**
- The trail is paved, but it is shared with cyclists and a small tour bus. Additionally, rattlesnakes are occasionally spotted at the site, and rocks sometimes fall from the steep slopes. Please be aware of your surroundings and use caution on the trail.
- Rock climbing is prohibited at Dinosaur Ridge. Please do not leave the trail.
- **Collecting of rocks or fossils is also prohibited at Dinosaur Ridge.** Any student found collecting or otherwise vandalizing the site will fail the course and will be reported to site authorities.

We should be finished around 4 pm, at which time we will be gathering either back in the Dinosaur Ridge parking lot/picnic area or back at the classroom, depending on the weather. We will use the remaining hour or so of the afternoon to discuss the field trip, complete a short assessment, and choose topics for your class project.