

DINOSAURS OF COLORADO: GEY 130

Spring 2018 Syllabus

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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COURSE DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

Course Dates: Saturday-Sunday, March 3-4, 2018; AND Saturday-Sunday March 17-18, 2018. (Note the one-weekend break between class weekends.)

Course Times: Saturday classes begin at 8:00am and end at 5:30pm, with one hour allocated for lunch. Sunday classes begin at 12:30pm and end at 5:30pm, with no allocated lunch. Periodic short breaks are planned during each day.

Course Location: West Building 2573

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK/COURSE MATERIALS

No required text. A portable notebook or clipboard is highly recommended for the field trip, and taking notes is encouraged during class. Students will need to arrange their own transportation for the field trip to Dinosaur Ridge.

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.

CREDIT HOURS

2 Credit Hours

COURSE PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITES

No prerequisites

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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.

GRADING POLICY

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING / ASSESSMENT

Attendance: 20 points (5 points per class day)

Group activity work: 40 points

In-class mini-quizzes: 10 points

Final presentation assignment: 30 points

TOTAL: 100 points

GRADING SCALE

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 60-69

F: 0-59

CRITERIA FOR GRADING / GRADING STANDARDS / ASSESSMENT MODULES

- Latecomers will lose their attendance points (up to 5 points per day of class). Points may also 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. Further instructions and a grading rubric will be provided when the assignment is given.

IMPORTANT DATES

STUDENTS: PLEASE VERIFY THE SPECIFIC DROP AND WITHDRAW DATES FOR THIS COURSE IN YOUR "[Detailed Student Schedule \(with Drop-Withdrawal Dates\)](https://erpdnssb.cccs.edu/PRODRRCC/wt_student_sched.P_DisplayStudentSched)" LINK IN THE ROCK, UNDER THE STUDENT TAB
(https://erpdnssb.cccs.edu/PRODRRCC/wt_student_sched.P_DisplayStudentSched)

DROP/CENSUS DATE (LAST DAY TO DROP WITH A REFUND)

March 3, 2018

This is the last day you can remove yourself from this class without having to pay for the class and without the class showing on your permanent student record. If you are on financial aid, you should consult a financial aid advisor before dropping a class. All students are encouraged to see an academic advisor about how dropping may affect their goals.

WITHDRAW DATE (LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH A “W”)

March 4, 2018

This is the last day you can remove yourself from this class and receive a “W” for the class instead of a grade. You are responsible for payment. If you are on financial aid, you should consult a financial aid advisor before withdrawing from a class. All students are encouraged to see an academic advisor about how withdrawing may affect their goals.

FIELD TRIP DATE

March 4, 2018

If weather requires rescheduling, this will be discussed in class.

PRESENTATION TOPIC DUE DATE

March 4, 2018. Must be confirmed with instructor prior to leaving class for the day

FINAL PRESENTATION DUE DATE

March 18, 2018

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Because of the short-term nature of GEY 130, attendance is absolutely mandatory for all class days and hours, 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 grade reduced by up to the maximum for the day. Incompletes will not be given; students who find themselves unable to attend class will be responsible for initiating the drop or withdrawal process to prevent a grade of F being recorded for the class.

MAKE-UP / LATE WORK POLICIES / EXTRA CREDIT

LATE WORK POLICY: Due to very tight grade submission deadlines for weekend classes, all assignments must be submitted by their stated due dates and times, and no credit, either full or partial, will be awarded for late assignments. Students with deadline accommodations requested by the College’s Accessibility Services may have a separate due date and time assigned prior to the expiration of the standard deadline; however, no credit will be awarded for any assignments received after the agreed-upon extended deadline.

EMERGENCY POLICY: 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, if possible. Note that these situations are VERY RARE. Making up certain assignments may be difficult or impossible without class interaction. Therefore, emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis with the guidance of College authorities.

EXTRA CREDIT: The field trip worksheet has 11 questions, but for simplicity will be graded out of 10. One extra point may be obtainable if you answer all 11 questions correctly. Should the number of student presentations exceed the reasonably available time on the day of the final presentation, a small amount of extra credit may be offered to a limited number of students who are willing to give their presentations one day early. No other opportunities for extra credit will be offered during this class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT / ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class and may be grounds for an immediate failing grade. Please refer to the Student Handbook for a full discussion of Academic Dishonesty. An excerpt defining cheating and plagiarism is printed below (see Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, Article I: Definitions):

“I. The term ‘cheating’ includes, but is not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the College faculty or staff; (4) engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion.

J. The term ‘plagiarism’ includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.”

RRCC SYLLABUS INSERT – REQUIRED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All students are required to be familiar with the information contained in the RRCC Syllabus Insert document. In addition to your instructor reviewing the required content in class, the RRCC SYLLABUS INSERT can be found as an announcement on all D2L landing pages (where you have access to all of your courses) and in the “Student Resources” pull-down menu.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 – SATURDAY MARCH 3 – SUNDAY MARCH 4

- Introductions
- Defining Dinosaurs
- Evolution, Classification, and Naming
- History of Dinosaur discovery
- Studying Dinosaurs and Protecting Fossil Resources
- Field Trip at Dinosaur Ridge
- Geologic Time
- Paleoenvironments
- Kinds of Fossils
- The Fossilization Process
- Field Trip Assessment

WEEK 2 – SATURDAY MARCH 17 – SUNDAY MARCH 18

- Dinosaurs of Colorado
- The Mesozoic Environment
- Dinosaur Size, Color, Speed—How we know what we know
- Success and Extinction of the Dinosaurs
- In-class presentations
- Wrap-up and Feedback
- Instructor Evaluations

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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, March 4. This is the building on the east side of the ridge, within view of Alameda and C-470, next to the Rooney Ranch. (The building on the west side of the ridge near the entrance to Red Rocks Park is the "Discovery Center"—if you find yourself there, ask a staff member for directions to the "Visitor's Center"!))
- 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—you are responsible for getting yourself to the field trip site on time! I will take roll at 12:45 pm at Dinosaur Ridge. There are some benches under the trees by the large model stegosaurus—it's a good place to congregate.
- The trail we will be walking is about one 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—although snow cover on the rocks may prevent the field trip if it obscures the fossils, light rain or wind will not stop the trip! *(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.
- Anyone requiring physical accommodations for the field trip should let me know today, as soon as possible. We will determine together how to make the field trip possible for you!
- The trail is paved, but it is breaking apart in some areas and is also 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 with the active portion of the field trip 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.

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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 page and submit to the instructor.