

## OXFORD COLLEGE OF EMORY UNIVERSITY

### **Syllabus for Dinosaurs and Their World (Geology 200N)**

Interim 2002

#### **I. Organization:**

Dinosaurs and Their World is a course that combines a series of seminars on the Oxford College campus during the spring semester with the field portion of the course following in May. The course meets weekly in the Video Conferencing classroom in the library from 6:30 – 8:00 on Tuesday nights. The field portion is a true outdoor laboratory. It includes direct observation of dinosaur remains still in the rocks and in museum exhibits. A number of field projects and evening seminars will round out the field experience. The field trip will take place in Colorado and Utah, presenting a wonderful opportunity for hands-on learning.

Instructor: Dr. Stephen W. Henderson  
Office: 106 Pierce Hall, Oxford Campus

Office Phone: (770)784-8345  
E-mail: [shender@emory.edu](mailto:shender@emory.edu)

Co-instructor: Dr. Anthony J. Martin  
Office: Environmental Studies Building  
Emory College Campus

Office Phone: (404)727-6476  
E-mail: [paleoman@learnlink.emory.edu](mailto:paleoman@learnlink.emory.edu)

#### **II. Goals for students enrolled in Geology 200N:**

Geology 200N has been designed for either the environmental studies major or for a student who wants an interesting laboratory science course as part of their liberal arts education. As such, no prior background is assumed or necessary; just a desire to learn and an interest in the natural world. The key elements in this course are the development of observation skills and their use in understanding and using the scientific method. These elements will be introduced early in the semester and continue to be reinforced throughout the rest of the course. The students' observational skills will be developed through a series of exercises in the classroom and field.

The study of dinosaurs is the perfect forum to bring in a number of other disciplines that support our understanding. Students will gain knowledge of the basic principles of geology, Earth history, and paleontology. Of course, when we consider dinosaurs as once-living animals, we will learn a considerable amount of biology. Chemistry will come into play as we discuss the methods of fossilization. Physics enters into our discussion as we analyze how dinosaurs were constructed and moved. Basic mathematical skills will also be mastered as we study dinosaurs. At the end of this course, through their study of dinosaurs, the students will have gained an appreciation, not only for dinosaurs, but also for the connections with other fields of study. They will understand how science works.

### **III. Required Materials:**

Text: Martin, 2001, Introduction to the Study of Dinosaurs

Field Notebook which is not spiral bound and will not easily fall apart

### **IV. Attendance:**

All students are expected to attend all of the scheduled seminars. Attendance will be taken. A student not having a valid excuse for missing class will have their final course grade reduced 2 points per absence. In addition, their participation grade will be affected. The laboratory portion of the course (i.e. the field trip) is required for a passing grade in the course.

### **V. Expectations:**

Each student who participates in Geology 200N is expected to exhibit good manners, good will, and impeccable conduct throughout the course. Considerations of safety, reputation, and common decency warrant no tolerance of all forms of misconduct. Think before you act. The instructors determine what constitutes misconduct.

The use of intoxicants by students is covered by the conduct code of Oxford College and is therefore prohibited. Because this is a college course, all other aspects of the conduct and honor codes are in effect. For security and safety considerations, night hiking is not allowed. In addition, going out in the evenings by yourself is not allowed.

Conduct which reflects adversely on the group or the college can result in immediate dismissal from the course and failure. Any student dismissed on the field trip will not be allowed to continue with the group but will be taken (at the student's expense) to the nearest public transportation for the trip home. The college will not be responsible for furnishing travel home in such cases nor will tuition be refunded.

**VI. Tuition** for this course is extra. The rate is \$584 per credit hour (Emory summer school rate) for a total of \$2336.00. Students will be billed for this tuition. Courtesy scholarships cover this tuition. In addition to tuition, each student will need to bring approximately \$300.00 for food and spending money on the field trip. Don't depend upon ATM machines because they are not everywhere that we are going.

## VII. Course Evaluation:

Written answers to discussion questions	25%
Participation in seminars, learnlink conference, and field trip	20%
Lecture Test on 4/30	20%
Written journal of field trip	25%
Attitude	10%

The **lecture test** will be based upon the seminars. It will most likely consist of short essays, combined with objective multiple choice and matching questions.

The **journal** will include field notes and notes from evening seminars. It will be supplemented by a narrative of the day's events to be written nightly while the material is still fresh. The journal must reflect a very accurate record of the course and include group activities as well as personal scientific observations and sketches. It must be neat and legible. The completed journal will be given to dr. Henderson upon arrival back at the Atlanta Airport and will be available for later pick-up after the grades have been recorded.

**Class participation** includes the classroom, the on-line conference, and the field trip. Asking questions and generally being an active learner are some of the ways to gain much from the course and receive the high participation grade that you deserve.

The **attitude grade** includes conduct, promptness, consideration of others, manners, willingness to help, and in general, being a good member of the group. On a field trip such as this, group dynamics become very important for the enjoyment of the course and the learning environment. We appreciate it!

## VIII. Grading System:

Geology 200N will use the plus-minus grading system as follows:

A	93-100	C+	77-79
A-	90-92	C	73-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-72
B	83-86	D+	67-69
B-	80-82	D	60-66
		F	<60

**IX. Seminar Schedule – Attendance is mandatory.**

	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Text Chapters and Discussion Questions</u>
Jan. 29	Introduction and Scientific Methods	1 & 2
Feb. 5	Paleontology and Geology	3
Feb. 12	History of Dinosaur Studies	4
Feb. 19	Dinosaur Anatomy	5
Feb. 26	Dinosaur Taphonomy	6
March 5	Tracks, Eggs, and Feeding Habits	7, 8, & 9
March 19	Dinosaur Evolution	10
March 26	Theropods and Sauropodomorphs	11 & 12
April 9	Ornithopods	13
April 16	Thyreophorans and Marginocephalians	14 & 15
April 23	Extinctions & Birds	16
April 30	Test	