Course Syllabus

Jump to Today



The syllabus page shows a table-oriented view of the course schedule, and the basics of course grading. You can add any other comments, notes, or thoughts you have about the course structure, course policies or anything else.

To add some comments, click the "Edit" link at the top.

Course Summary:

Date	Details Due
Mon Aug 25, 2025	Introduction (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? 12pm to 1:15pm event_id=47904&include_contexts=course_53495)
	Evolution and the Fossil Record (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1157451) due by 12pm
Wed Aug 27, 2025	
	How to study fossil vertebrates: Benton Chapter 2 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1157613) due by 12pm
Wed Sep 3, 2025	Vertebrate Origins (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? 12pm to 1:15pm event_id=47908&include_contexts=course_53495)
	Quiz 1 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1187910) due by 12pm



Vertebrates Originate: Benton Chapter 1

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167430)

due by 12pm

Wertebrate Paleontology

Research

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar?

event_id=47909&include_contexts=course_53495)

12pm to 1:1



Mon Sep 8, 2025

Wed Sep 10, 2025

P Vertebrate Paleontology: New

Approaches and New Insights

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167633)

due by 12pm



Systematics

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? event_id=47910&include_contexts=course_53495) 12pm to 1:15pm

Early Chordates and Fishes

Report

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1185433)

due by 12pm



Systematics

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167694)

due by 12pm



Early Paleozoic Fishes

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar?

12pm to 1:15pm

event_id=47911&include_contexts=course_53495)

Early Paleozoic Fishes: Benton

Chapter 3

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167693)

due by 12pm

Mon Sep 15, 2025

due by 12pm

□ Quiz 2

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1187911)

Phylogenetic Reconstruction

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar?

Wed Sep 17, 2025

Phylogenetic Reconstruction

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167692)

due by 12pm

12pm to 1:15pm

(1)

Early Tetrapods

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar?

12pm to 1:15pm

event_id=47913&include_contexts=course_53495)

event_id=47912&include_contexts=course_53495)

Final Paper Topic

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1185452)

due by 12pm

Mon Sep 22, 2025

Stem Amphibian or Amniote

Report

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1185442)

due by 12pm

(1)

The First Tetrapods: Benton

Chapter 4

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167691)

due by 12pm

Early Amniotes

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar?

12pm to 1:15pm

event_id=47914&include_contexts=course_53495)

Wed Sep 24, 2025

Evolution of Early Amniotes:

Benton Chapter 5

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167687)

due by 12pm

Exam 1 12pm to 1:15pm (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? event_id=47915&include_contexts=course_53495) Mon Sep 29, 2025 Exam 1 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1197060) due by 1:15pm **Species & Populations** (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? 12pm to 1:15pm event_id=47916&include_contexts=course_53495) Wed Oct 1, 2025 **Population Genetics** (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167686) due by 12pm **Marine Reptiles** 12pm to 1:15pm (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? event_id=47917&include_contexts=course_53495) Dinosauria (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1185444) due by 12pm Mon Oct 6, 2025 The Evolution of Marine **Reptiles** due by 12pm (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167685) (1) **Triassic Tetrapoda & Post-Devonian Fishes** 12pm to 1:15pm (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? event_id=47919&include_contexts=course_53495) Wed Oct 8, 2025 Triassic Tetrapoda & Post-**Devonian Fishes: Benton chapters 6**

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167679)

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due by 12pm

Wed Oct 15, 2025	Crocodiles & Pterosaurs (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? event_id=47921&include_contexts=course_53495)	12pm to 1:15pm
	Mesozoic Reptiles: Benton Chapter 9 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167683)	due by 12pm
	© Quiz 3 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1187914)	due by 12pm
Mon Oct 20, 2025	Dinosauria 1 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? event_id=47922&include_contexts=course_53495)	12pm to 1:15pm
	Aves/Pterosauria (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1185446)	due by 12pm
	Dinosaurs: Benton chapter 8 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167680)	due by 12pm
Wed Oct 22, 2025	Diversification & Extinction (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? event_id=47923&include_contexts=course_53495)	12pm to 1:15pm
	Diversity (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167684)	due by 12pm
Man Oct 27, 2025	Dinosauria 2 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? event_id=47924&include_contexts=course_53495)	12pm to 1:15pm
Mon Oct 27, 2025	Dinosaurs: Benton chapter 8	

due by 12pm

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167682)

W-4 O-4 20, 2025	Exam 2 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? event_id=47925&include_contexts=course_53495)	12pm to 1:15pm
Wed Oct 29, 2025	Exam 2 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1198060)	due by 1:15pm
Mon Nov 3, 2025	Aves (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? event_id=47926&include_contexts=course_53495)	12pm to 1:15pm
14101111404 3, 2023	The Birds: Benton chapter 10 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167681)	due by 12pm
Wed Nov 5, 2025	TBA (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? event_id=47927&include_contexts=course_53495)	12pm to 1:15pm
	Lepidosauria & Mammal-like reptiles (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? event_id=47928&include_contexts=course_53495)	12pm to 1:15pm
Mon Nov 10, 2025	Lepidosauria and mammal-like reptiles: Benton parts of chapters 9 & 11 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167690)	due by 12pm
	Mammalia 1 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? event_id=47929&include_contexts=course_53495)	12pm to 1:15pm

Mammalia 1

Syllabus for Fall 2025 Vertebrate Paleontology (GEOL-334-001, GEOL-534-001, BIOL-334-001) 8/12/25, 10:13 AM due by 12pm Wed Nov 12, 2025 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1185448) (1) Mammalia 1: Benton chapter 11 & <u>12</u> due by 12pm (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167688) Mammalia 2 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? 12pm to 1:15pm event_id=47930&include_contexts=course_53495) Mammalia 2: Mammalia 1: Benton chapter 11 & 12 due by 12pm Mon Nov 17, 2025 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167689) □ Quiz 4 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1187946) due by 12pm **Paleoecology** (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? 12pm to 1:15pm event id=47932&include contexts=course 53495) Final Paper First Draft (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1185455) due by 12pm Wed Nov 19, 2025 Paleoecology and **Paleogeography** due by 12pm (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167706)

Mammalia 3

(1)

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar?

event_id=47933&include_contexts=course_53495)

12pm to 1:15pm

Mammalia 3: Benton chapter 11

& 12 due by 12pm Mon Nov 24, 2025 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167708) Final Paper Peer Review (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1335243) due by 1:15pm (1) Mammalia 4 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? 12pm to 1:15pm event_id=47935&include_contexts=course_53495) Mammalia 2 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1185449) due by 12pm Mon Dec 1, 2025 (X) Mammalia 4, Marine mammals: Benton chapter 11 & 12 due by 12pm (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167752) (1) Human Evolution (https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? 12pm to 1:15pm event id=47936&include contexts=course 53495) **Human Evolution: Benton** chapter 13 due by 12pm Wed Dec 3, 2025 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1167709)

Quiz 5 (https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1197059)

Student Presentations

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar? event_id=47937&include_contexts=course_53495)

12pm to 1:15pm

due by 12pm

due by 12pm

Mon Dec 8, 2025

Final Paper

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1185457)

Presentation

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1185488)

due by 12pm

Final Exam

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/calendar?

10:30am to 1:15pm

event_id=42985&include_contexts=course_53495)

Mon Dec 15, 2025

Exam 3: Final Exam

(https://canvas.gmu.edu/courses/53495/assignments/1198062) due by 1:15pm