INVERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY
GEOL 312 BIOL 435 GEOL 503
Spring 2024

Instructor: Dr. Stacey Verardo
Contact information: ONLY CONTACT ME BY EMAIL
Email: sverardo@gmu.edu
Class hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00-10:15am
Laboratory Tuesdays 10:30 - 1:15pm

TEXT
Ancient Invertebrates and their Living Relatives. Levin, Prentice Hall, 1999. This book is no longer in print. It is an older book but has all the requisite information we need. We will not be using it until ~the 5th week of the semester so order it SOON!
You can find it at: https://www.amazon.com/Ancient-Invertebrates-Their-Living-Relatives/dp/0137489552.

Lab: Labs will be posted on Blackboard

LECTURES
SECTION 1 -PALEOBIOLOGY
January 16 The Fossil Record and Fossil Variation
January 18 Fossil Variation and Species and Speciation
January 23 Systematics and Evolution
January 25 Extinction
January 30 Paleocology
February 1 Paleocology
February 6 Biogeography and Biostratigraphy
February 8 review
February 13 EXAM 1

SECTION 2 -PALEONTOLOGY
February 15 Early Life
February 20 Trace Fossils
February 22 Protista
February 27 Porifera
February 29 Cnidarians/ Bryozoan
March 5 SPRING BREAK
March 7 SPRING BREAK
March 12 Brachiopoda
March 14  Review  
March 19  **EXAM 2**  
March 21  Mollusca  
March 26  Mollusca  
March 28  Arthropoda  
April 2  Arthropoda  
April 4  Echinodermata  
April 9  Hemichordate/Conodont  
April 11  Plants  
April 16  laboratory practical  
April 18  review  
April 23  Presentations  
April 25  Presentations  
May 2  **FINAL EXAM**  

**NOTE:** This exam begins at 7:30am

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

January 16  NO LAB, first week  
February 1  TOPIC DEADLINE  
February 13  NO LAB, EXAM start time at 9:30am  
March 19  NO LAB, EXAM start time at 9:30am  
April 16  Laboratory practical  
April 23  Class Presentations  
April 25  Class Presentations  
**May 2**  **FINAL**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Attendance** at all scheduled lecture and laboratory sections are required to achieve the requisite level of knowledge in this course.

2. **Grading**

   - **60%** of your total Paleontology grade will be from the three lecture exams. Each will be equally weighted at 20% for the class.
   - **30%** of the total grades will come from the lab grade. Individual lab grades incorporate 15% of the grade and one lab practicum (i.e. fossil ID exam) equals 15% of the grade.
   - **10%** of the grade will be from a presentation to the class on one of the topics listed above. Each team will consist of two students and all topics are cleared through me. The deadline to choose a topic is February 1, 2024

Make up exams will NOT be given. 
All exams will emphasize material presented in the lectures. 
Students are responsible for all material in the textbook readings. 
Exams are closed book.
INVERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY LAB
MANDATORY: You must have a sketchpad, pencils, and a good eraser. Laboratory exercises supplement lectures and provide "hands-on" experience for lecture topics.

**SCHEDULE**
- Tuesdays 10:30am -1:15pm
- January 16  No lab
- January 23  Sedimentary environments & Tectonic Setting
- January 30  Reef Builders
- February 6  Mobil Invertebrates
- February 13  LECTURE EXAM 1
- February 20  Trace fossils, Microfossils
- February 27  Porifera, Cnidaria
- March 5  SPRING BREAK
- March 12  Lophopores
- March 19  LECTURE EXAM 2
- March 26  Mollusks
- April 2  Arthropods
- April 9  Echinoderms and Hemicordata
- April 16  Practical
- April 23  Paleontology presentations

**GMU POLICY GUIDELINES**

These university and class policies are important to understand:

- **Integrity**: GMU has an Honor Code with guidelines regarding academic integrity; please see [http://oai.gmu.edu](http://oai.gmu.edu) for more information.

- **Disability**: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and also contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474 or [http://ods.gmu.edu](http://ods.gmu.edu). All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

- **Diversity**: Diversity is a core value at GMU; please see [http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement](http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement) for more information.

- **Privacy**: Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. Please see [http://masonlive.gmu.edu](http://masonlive.gmu.edu) for more information.

- **Electronics**: Please be respectful of our time together and do not engage in activities that are unrelated to class. Cell phones may be left on but muted and used for emergencies only.