

Office of Academic Affairs
Tarleton State University
July, 2002

Master Course Syllabus Outline

Department: Chemistry, Geosciences & Environ. Sci. **Course Prefix/Number:**GEOL 3053

Official Course Title: Paleontology

Master Syllabus Approved by Department on: ____/____/____
month date year

I. Catalog Description (50 words; brief synopsis of course content, emphases)

An introduction to the study of fossils. A survey of the systematics, evolution and paleoecology of microfossils, plants, invertebrate and vertebrate fossils. Prerequisites: GEOL 1054, 1064 and BIOL 1204, 1214 junior classification or approval of department head. Lab fee \$10.

II. Prerequisites?

GEOL 1054, 1064; BIOL 1204, 1214.

III. Expanded Course Description (150 words; primary course content, intended student level and role(s) course is to play in the curriculum)

This is an upper-level course that is recommended for students majoring or minoring in Geoscience, and especially those within the support area of Geology. A few biology majors also take this course as an elective. Topics covered include an introduction to fossil preservation and systematics, an overview of microfossils and fossil invertebrates, the evolution of plants, and vertebrate paleontology.

IV. Intended Student Learning Outcomes? Required; knowledge outcomes (what students who successfully complete the course will be expected to know). Optional; skill outcomes (what students who successfully complete the course will be able to do). Optional; value outcomes (what students who successfully complete the course will value or appreciate).

Knowledge Outcomes.

The student should generally understand how paleontologists construct hypotheses and how they analyze and interpret paleontologic data. The student should comprehend how evolution has resulted in the ecosystems we live in at the present.

Value Outcomes.

Knowledge of paleontology allows the student to understand how the human species, and other organisms, have evolved and stimulates them to think about the niche of humans (and others) in the World ecosystem. It hopefully reveals to them that humans form a small part of the ecosystem, and not the major piece at that.

V. Unless otherwise stipulated in this master syllabus by the department, the following items are subject to faculty discretion as described in each faculty member's individual course outline/syllabus:

a) Course Requirements? (grading/evaluation procedures; class attendance policy; term papers, projects, field assignments; examinations; class participation, etc.).

Lecture and lab is counted equally. Grading is based on the averages of several lecture tests and a final exam in lecture, and tests and lab exercises for the laboratory. Class attendance is important, but a student will not be penalized for not attending the lectures.

b) Required Text(s)?

A lecture text and lab manual is required.

c) Bibliography?

Department Head Signature/Date:

Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date