

01:460:206:01 **Sample Syllabus**
DINOSAURS

Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Geological Sciences, Rutgers University

Instructor: Dr. Lauren Neitzke Adamo

Dinosaurs (3 credits) is a survey of dinosaurian evolution and diversity. We will explore the history of discovery and collection, reconstruct anatomy, behavior, physiology and habitats from the fossil record and interpret origins, evolutionary radiation, and extinction.

CLASS MEETINGS: Busch Campus
Tuesday & Friday, 10:20 am to 11:40 am
Hill Center, Room 114

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment ONLY!
Contact Lauren at lauren.adamo@rutgers.edu or 848-932-7243 to set up an appointment.

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: Nothing but an interest in dinosaurian paleobiology.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

DINOSAURS (4th or 5th Ed.), by S. G. Lucas
1 subscription to Tophat.com

- The textbook can be found online or at the Rutgers University Bookstore. I recommend that you purchase a used copy of the older edition online from amazon.com, half.com, etc. It is much cheaper than the bookstore for the same thing.
- The subscription to tophat can be purchased directly online or you can buy a subscription card at the bookstore. It is cheaper to buy it online.

CONTACTING US:

Email is the best way to reach me. I will make every effort to reply to all emails within 24 hours. However, I will not respond to questions about grades or grading. Please make an appointment to come talk to me if you want to discuss grades.

- Office Hours
 - Please email me to set up an appointment. I am around most days, but need some advance notice to make sure I am around at that time. I am also available to talk before or after class.

GRADED WORK:

Your final grade will be based on a total of 540 points. You will be given 3 written hourly examinations; all are objective in nature (multiple-choice, true/false, matching), two written assignments, online discussion questions and pop quizzes given during the lectures. Each examination is worth 100 points (for a total of 300 points) and counts as ~ 20 % of the total course grade. The examinations are *not* cumulative; each covers approximately 1/3rd of the semester lecture material.

The two written assignments will consist of one short written current events project (Paleontology in the News worth 40 points), and one written activity that will be completed at the Rutgers Geology Museum (Geology Museum Assignment worth 40 points). The Paleontology in the News project will involve finding a current newspaper/journal article on any paleontology or dinosaur related topic and writing up a short summary. The second project will be a guided activity that will ask you to answer questions about the exhibits on display at the Rutgers Geology Museum. Further details for both of these projects will be discussed and distributed later on in class.

Total Points: 540

Exam 1: 100 points

Exam 2: 100 points

Exam 3: 100 points

Online Discussions: 100 points

Paleontology in the News Project: 40 points

Geology Museum Assignment: 40 points

In class Pop Quizzes: 60 points

The following is the break down of the final grades that will be assigned based on the total amount of points earned in the class. These point values are final and borderline grades will not be changed. Up to 15 extra credit points will be offered throughout the semester, so if you think you have a borderline grade, the only way to obtain the higher grade is to complete the extra credit assignments.

Grade A: 481 points or higher

Grade B+: 480 to 457 points

Grade B: 456 to 430 points

Grade C+: 429 to 404 points

Grade C: 403 to 376 points

Grade D: 375 to 317 points

Grade F: 317 points or lower

Grades will be posted on the course website throughout the semester, so be sure to keep track of your grade and hand in all assignments before the end of the semester. No assignments will be accepted after the due dates, except in the case of written permission from an official.

I will not discuss grades over email. If you have any questions concerning grading or grades, come talk to me before or after class or set up an appointment to meet during office hours. Grades will not be changed once they are submitted to the registrar, except in the case of written permission from the dean.

Pop Quizzes

Pop quizzes will be given daily in class in the form of TopHat questions. Everyone must purchase a subscription to TopHat for the class. You will need to bring a cell phone (with texting abilities), a laptop, tablet, iphone/ipad or other smart phone with you to class everyday. Subscriptions can be purchased at the bookstore or online at the TopHat website. The questions from one day of lecture are worth between 2-4 points towards the total 60 pop quiz points. You will get points for participation and for answering the questions correctly. **No make up pop quizzes will be given under any circumstances, and this includes forgetting your phone, computer, etc. or missing class of ANY reason.**

TopHat Application

Every student must purchase a subscription to TopHat. This is an in-class personal response system that we will use everyday in class. In addition to the subscription students must bring a text enabled cell phone, a laptop, iphone, ipad, tablet, or smart phone with them to class to answer the questions. You must visit <https://tophat.com/> to purchase your subscription (or buy a card at the bookstore) and to activate your account. You will need the following information to activate your account.

School- Rutgers University- New Brunswick Course Number 326214

Extra Credit

During the course of the semester you will be given the opportunity to complete an optional field trip activity at the American Museum of Natural History (in New York City) for up to 15 points extra credit. If you choose to do this assignment, it must be handed in no later than the last day of lecture. *NOTE: Visiting the museum and doing the assignment does not guarantee full credit on the assignment. You must correctly and fully answers all the questions to receive the maximum amount of points.*

Course Website:

Sakai@Rutgers (<http://sakai.rutgers.edu>):

Log on to our course website to obtain copies of the syllabus, handouts, study guides, exam schedules, test scores, and the museum extra credit assignment. This website will also be used to submit the two written assignments. Downloading and printing handouts prior to class lecture will be extremely useful. Use your Rutgers (rci, crab, andromeda, eden, clam, pegasus) username and password to access all of your class websites and click on the tab *Dinosaurs Fall 2015*. If you cannot access our course website, please contact me as soon as possible at the above email address.

Academic Integrity

Rutgers University adheres to a strict no-tolerance policy for breaches of Academic Integrity. If you are caught violating **ANY** of the Academic Integrity policies, disciplinary actions **WILL** be taken. Please refer to the University's Academic Integrity policies for questions regarding disciplinary actions. A copy of these policies is posted on the course website (sakai) and can be found online at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml> .

If you are caught cheating on a test or plagiarizing an assignment, you will receive an **AUTOMATIC ZERO** on the test or assignment, and must retake or redo the test or assignment. The grade of the retaken test will be averaged with the original test grade for the final grade. Redone assignments will still receive a ZERO, however, if the student does not or refuses to redo the plagiarized assignment, the student will

receive an automatic failing (“F”) for the course and the case will be handed over to the Dean of Academic Integrity.

Absences: Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Please note: Our policy for missed exams or assignments is that NO makeups or late assignments will be allowed without written permission from a Rutgers Official.

**Policy on Classroom Etiquette
Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences,
Rutgers University, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, NJ**

The Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences is committed to teaching excellence, fostering close interaction between students and faculty in our 300- and 400-level courses. While recognizing that large lecture classes are required to serve the demand for 100- and 200-level introductory course, we have decided to avoid offering courses large than 140 students whenever practicable. At all levels, we demand that instructors (Professors, Lecturers, and Teaching Assistants) AND students display appropriate respect and consideration for each other. Instructors should try to infuse students with an enthusiastic appreciation of Earth and Planetary Sciences, be well prepared for class, provide students with clear goals and expectations, listen carefully to student questions and comments, and conscientiously evaluate students' work. Students are expected to attend the scheduled classes and to behave courteously in class. Together, instructors and students will maintain an environment of openness and civility that encourages and honors the intellectual achievement represented by the discipline of Earth and Planetary Sciences. We outline the following rules on exams, attendance, tardiness/leaving early, and integrity.

Exams: Every effort must be made to take exams when scheduled. No unexcused make-up exams will be given without WRITTEN documentation from a Rutgers University official. Those with valid excuses will be allowed to take exams in a method determined by the instructor.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class; attendance is one of the best prognosticators of a student's performance. If a student cannot attend a class or must leave early, he/she should inform the instructor and ask to be excused. Instructors may require signed attendance sheets and may count attendance as part of the grade. Falsification of an attendance record by signing another student's name or signing and then leaving class is a serious breach of academic integrity.

Tardiness and Leaving Class Early: Our university is geographically challenged. Students must commute considerable distances between classes and instructors are aware of problems that students encounter in trying to come to class on time. We recognize that some tardiness is inevitable; HOWEVER, habitually arriving in class late and departing early is disruptive and rude. We ask that once you make every effort possible to get to class on time, and once there, STAY.

Personal Conversation: It is rude and disruptive to engage in personal conversation during class. Students who persist in this disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the class and may be penalized as absent. Refusal to leave class once requested will result in disciplinary action at the Dean's level. **Cell phones should be turned off in class.**

Academic Integrity: Our department fully endorses a no-tolerance cheating and plagiarism policy. If you are caught cheating, the instructor may fail you and request disciplinary action.

Your Rights: We are all human and instructors and students both make mistakes. If you feel that you have been treated unfairly, contact the department chair Dr. Carl C. Swisher cswish@rci.rutgers.edu

Modified from policy of the Department of History, Rutgers, The State University of NJ
Voted on as Departmental Policy by on January 17, 2000

Copy of these policies can be found at: <http://geology.rutgers.edu/policy.shtml>

DATE	LECTURE TOPICS & EXAMINATIONS	READINGS
Tu- Sept 1st	Course Overview, Introduction to Dinosaurs	
F- Sept 4 th	Lecture 1: Introduction to Geological Time	Chapter 1 & 3
Tu- Sept 8 th	No class- Monday schedule of classes	
F- Sept 11 th	Lecture 2: Major Unifying Theories	
Tu- Sept 15 th	Lecture 3: Basic Concepts of Species and Macroevolution	Chapter 2
F- Sept 18 th	Lecture 4: Philosophies of Dinosaur Systematics	Chapter 2
Tu- Sept 22 nd	Lecture 5: Evolution of the Earliest Vertebrates	
F- Sept 25 th	Lecture 6: Invasion of the Land: The Terrestrial Ecosystem Before the Evolution of Dinosaurs	
Tu- Sept 29 th	Lecture 7: What is a Reptile? The Amphibian-Reptile Transition	Chapter 4
TBA	Exam 1 Review- at Rutgers Geology Museum **** Time will be announced in class****	
F- Oct 2 nd	Lecture 8: Paleo Art Lecture	
Tu- Oct 6 th	Exam 1: Covers material from lectures 1 to 6	Chapters 1 to 3
F- Oct 9 th	Lecture 8a: The Reptilian Precursors to the Dinosaur Ecosystem (The Archosaurs)	Chapter 4
Tu- Oct 13 th	Lecture 9: Walking with the Dinosaurs: New Blood and Cruel Sea or Giants of the Skies	
F- Oct 16 th	Lecture 10: Classification of the Dinosaurs	Chapter 4
F- Oct 16 th	Paleontology in the News due at 11:59 pm on sakai	
Tu- Oct 20 th	Lecture 11: The First Saurischian Dinosaurs: The Sauropodomorphs	Chapter 6
F- Oct 23 rd	Lecture 12a: The Carnivorous Saurischians: The Theropods	Chapter 5
Tu- Oct 27 th	Lecture 12b: The Theropods continued	
F- Oct 30 th	Lecture 13: Walking with Dinosaurs: Time of the Titans & TBA	
Tu- Nov 3 rd	Lecture 14: The Armored Ornithischians: Stegosaurs, Ankylosaurs	Chapter 8
F- Nov 6 th	Lecture 15: The Bipedal Ornithischians: Hypsilophodonts, Iguanodonts, and Hadrosaurs	Chapter 7
TBA	Exam 2 Review- at Rutgers Geology Museum ****Time will be announced in class****	
Tu- Nov 10 th	Exam 2: Covers material from lectures 7 to 14	Chapters 4 to 6 & 8
F- Nov 13 th	Lecture 16: The Last Ornithischians: Ceratopsians and the Peculiar Pachycephalosaurs	Chapter 9
Tu- Nov 18 th	Lecture 17: The Structure and Evolution of the Dinosaur Ecosystem	Chapter 10
F- Nov 20 th	Lecture 18: End of the Dinosaurs	Chapter 15
Nov 23-27	No class Thanksgiving Week	
Tu- Dec 1st	Lecture 19: Walking with Dinosaurs: End of an Era & TBA	
F- Dec 4 th	Lecture 20: Dinosaur Physiology: Were the Dinosaurs Endothermic?	Chapter 13
Tu- Dec 8 th	Lecture 21: Movie "Dinosaurs Return to Life"	
Tu- Dec 8 th	**** AMNH Extra Credit Assignment and Rutgers Geology Museum Assignment due in class.****	
TBA	3 rd Exam- covers everything from Lecture 15 on.	