Spring 2008

History of Life - Honors Geology
(MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

That some people are frightened by geological time and that more find it difficult to grasp its immensity may well be related to a sense of human mortality, to the comparative brevity of our own lives. One of the great values of paleontology is that it enables us to live in our own complex minds not just a few score years but more than three billion years of life history.

- George Gaylord Simpson, 1902-1984

INSTRUCTOR:Dr. Mitchell Colgan

LAB INSTRUCTORS: Ms Robin Humphreys
Ms Elizabeth Rhodes

TEXTBOOK: Cowen, R. 2005. **History of Life**, 4th Blackwell Scientific Pub., Boston. pp. xii + 324. I will be placing articles on Web-CT that you will be able to access from your computer.

INTERNET RESOURCES: The Internet will be a major source of supplemental information for this class, and I will regularly be giving you additional reading and lecture materials. It is in your best interests that you monitor your school's e-mail address. If you wish information sent to another account - you need to e-mail me at mcolgan@loki.cofc.edu. In the subject line put: Honors Geology.

GRADING: There will be three exams and a final. The final will emphasize information from the last half of the class, but it will also contain selected questions covering the core material emphasized during the entire the class. Also, you will be assigned several short writing tasks. Quizzes may be given at random dates during the class. Class participation may also be a criterion for grading.

Task	Final Grade %
Three in class exams (20 % each)	60
Final	20
Written Assignments (3 to 4)	20

A >91 A- >90 B+ > 87 B > 81 B- > 79 C+ > 78 C > 70 C- > 69 D > 60 F< 60

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: You will be given three to four writing assignments. No quotes -- everything must be in your own words.

EXAMS: Every student will take the exams at the scheduled time. **NO MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN WITHOUT A VALID EXCUSE** (e. g., doctor's note). All makeup tests will be essays.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: You are expected to attend all class meetings. I take roll, **and I will drop you from the class if you have more than three unexcused absences.**

Office Hours: My office hours are either Tuesdays and Thursday between 8:00 and 10:00 or by appointment. You can always speak to me after class. My office is in Room 339 B in the Science Center. E-mail: mcolgan@loki.cofc.edu or colganm@cofc.edu. Phone 953-7171

Other Help: Also, there will be at least one review sessions before each exam.

Cheating and Plagiarism: You are bound by the College of Charleston Honor Code. This means you will produce your own work and will not lie, cheat, plagiarize, steal, or attempt to do so. If you violate the Honor Code, the College Honor Board will be notified and disciplinary action, up to expulsion, will ensue.

Courtesy and Tolerance: You are also required to respect the rights of other students to learn, and the professor to teach, without undue distraction. The following activities are not permitted and may result in your being required to leave the class temporarily or permanently:

- Chatter during lecture
- Use of laptops, personal CD or cassette players, or cell phones. Cell phones should be switched off during class.
- Reading newspapers, magazines, etc. during the lecture.
- Eating anything noisy, smelly, or otherwise distracting.
- Frequently arriving late.
- Leaving before the class ends without previously having it excused by me. Walking out early is rude, disruptive, and will be counted as an unjustified absence.

FOR YOUR FIRST TEST (Feb 4) YOU WILL NEED TO KNOW:

Geologic time scale – page 20 – Figure 2.6
Linnean Hierarchy (Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species)
Linnean Nomenclature (Genus species e.g., Homo sapiens)
Vertebrate Classes – Page 41
Major Phyla of Fossil Invertebrate – be able to ID each phylum

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			Subject	Chapters
1	W	1/9/08	Introductions - Cosmic origins	1
2	F	1/11/08	Cosmic origins + Earth formation	1
3	M	1/14/08	Evolution and Darwin	Readings
4	W	1/16/08	Evolution and Darwin	Readings
5	F	1/18/08	Evolution and Darwin	Readings
	M	1/21/08	**MLK Day**	
6	W	1/23/08	Origin of Life	1
7	F	1/25/08	Earliest life	2
8	M	1/28/08	Evolving earth systems	2
9	W	1/30/08	Rise of Eukaryotes + Evolution of Animals	3 + 4
10	F	2/1/08	Ediacaran Fauna	4
	M	2/4/08	**Exam 1 Exam 1 Exam 1 Exam 1**	

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11	W	2/6/08	Cambrian transition - Causes	5
12	F	2/8/08	Burgess shale + Vertebrate Origins	6
13	M	2/11/08	Fishes	7
14	W	2/13/08	Lobe Fin Fishes	7
15	F	2/15/08	Leaving the water Plants & Animals	8
16	M	2/18/08	Early Amphibians Carboniferous Period	8
17	W	2/20/08	Early Reptiles	9
18	F	2/22/08	Permian Reptiles	10
19	M	2/25/08	Therapsids Reptiles – Permian Extinct	10
20	W	2/27/08	Triassic Reptiles	11
	F	2/29/08	**Exam 2 Exam 2 Exam 2 Exam 2**	
			Spring Break	
21	M	3/10/08	Dinosaurs	12
22	W	3/12/08	Dinosaurs	12
23	F	3/14/08	Dinosaurs	12
24	M	3/17/08	Dinosaurs	12
25	W	3/19/08	Origin of Birds	13
26	F	3/21/08	Pterosaurs	13
27	M	3/24/08	Marine reptiles	14
28	W	3/26/08	Origin of Mammals	15
	F	3/28/08	**Exam 3 Exam 3 Exam 3 Exam 3**	16
29	M	3/31/08	Cretaceous Extinction	
30	W	4/2/08	Cenozoic Mammals	17
31	F	4/4/08	Cenozoic Mammals	17
32	M	4/7/08	Whale and Horse evolution	19
33	W	4/9/08	Primates evolution	19
34	F	4/11/08	Primates evolution	19
35	M	4/14/08	Human evolution	20
36	W	4/16/08	Human evolution	20
37	F	4/18/08	The Ice Ages	21
38	M	4/21/08	Human's and The Ice Ages	21
39	W	4/23/08	Climate change	21
	F	5/2/08	**Final (12:00 - 3:00)**	