**Instructor**  
Dr. David Goodwin  
Office: Olin 304; Phone: 587-5621; Email: goodwind@denison.edu; Web: http://personal.denison.edu/~goodwind/  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 1:30-2:20; or by appointment

**Meeting Times**  
Lecture: MWF 11:30-12:20, Olin 312; Lab: T 1:30-4:20, Olin 312

**Required Texts**  

**Grading**  
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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Exercises</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture Exams (2)</td>
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<td>Lab Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Book Groups</td>
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**Lab Exercises** Each week you will complete a laboratory exercise and/or field project. You are required to hand in a complete and thoughtful report for each exercise. Reports are due at the beginning of class on the Monday following the lab.

**Research Project** Each student will research, prepare and display a poster at our end-of-semester paleo research symposium. You may choose the subject of your own research project, however, each will focus on a different taxonomic groups. You will receive additional information about the research project in the second week of the semester. Nevertheless, you should start thinking of potential topics now.

**Lecture Exams** These should be self-explanatory. They will cover material discussed in lectures since the previous exam.

**Lab Exam** This hands-on exam will focus on topics covered in our lab exercises. Special emphasis will be placed on identifying fossil specimens, age determination paleoecological significance.

**Final Exam** This cumulative exam will touch on all aspects of the material covered throughout the semester.

**Book Groups** We will read three books this semester (see above). After completing each book, we will meet for “book group.” These meeting will take the form of seminar discussions. Prior to each book group, each student will submit a list of discussion questions. You will be evaluated on the quality of your submitted questions and on your participation in the actual book group discussion.

**Attendance and Late Work Policy**  
While I do not officially take attendance, I expect you to attend all lectures. You are required to attend all labs. There will be no make-up labs, quizzes or exams and late work will not be accepted. I expect each and every student to make appropriate, insightful and sustained contributions throughout the semester.

**Academic Integrity**
Denison University students and the faculty in the Department of Geosciences are committed to academic integrity and will not tolerate any violation of this principle. Academic honesty, the cornerstone of teaching and learning, lays the foundation for lifelong integrity. Academic dishonesty is, in most cases, intellectual theft. It includes, but is not limited to, providing or receiving assistance in a manner not authorized by the instructor in the creation of work to be submitted for evaluation. This standard applies to all work ranging from daily homework assignments to major exams. Students must clearly cite any sources consulted—not only for quoted phrases but also for ideas and information that are not common knowledge. Neither ignorance nor carelessness is an acceptable defense in cases of plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to follow the appropriate format for citations. As is indicated in Denison's Student Handbook, available through mydenison.edu, instructors must refer every act of academic dishonesty to the Associate Provost, and violations may result in failure in the course, suspension, or expulsion. For further information, see:

http://www.denison.edu/student-affairs/handbook/ar03s02s01.html

Disability Statement
Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately as soon as possible to discuss his or her specific needs. I rely on the Academic Support & Enrichment Center in 102 Doane to verify the need for reasonable accommodations based on documentation on file in that office.

Writing Center
The Center is a free resource available to all Denison students. Student writing consultants from many majors help writers one-on-one in all phases of the writing process, from deciphering the assignment, to discussing ideas, to developing an argument, to finalizing a draft. Because proofreading is a last step in that process, writers should leave plenty of time for getting their ideas right before expecting proofreading help. Consultants also can help writers with personal documents, like job and internship applications. The Center is located on the fourth floor of Barney-Davis Hall; satellite locations are on the third floor of the Library (the Entry level) and the first floor of Fellows near the Computer Lab. Appointments between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, can be made in the Barney location on-line at:

http://www.denison.edu/academics/writingcenter/index.html

The satellite locations are drop-in; check the website at http://www.denison.edu/writingctr/ for those hours.

How To Do Well In Biodiversity Through Time
• Come to class! You are responsible for everything said during our meetings—this includes unannounced quizzes and modifications to the syllabus. But most importantly, this is the best place to clarify problems and ask questions.
• Read the assigned material before you come to class. I guarantee you will perform better if you know what to expect at the beginning of class. Furthermore, you will be able to understand more complex concepts rather than struggling with the basics.
• Take a few minutes every day to work on this course. Sometime after class take a look at your notes. It will not take much time—probably less than 15 minutes. You will be amazed, you will remember more than you ever thought possible. If you follow my advice, you may never cram for an exam again.
• If you have questions—about anything—come and talk with me. I am usually pretty busy, but you will find I will make time for you.
• Be an active learner. This is your education and you get out what you put in. I am here to share information with you, so think of me as a resource. I love what I do and am happy to talk with you about class material (or most anything else for that matter). Remember, I am here to help.
• Lastly, have fun!
LETTURES

Week  | Dates  | Topic                                                                 |
---   | ---    | ---                                                                   |
1     | 9/1-9/5| Fossil Preservation & Taphonomy                                       |
2     | 9/8-9/12| Temporal Changes in the Nature of the Fossil Record &                |
        |        | Describing and Measuring Aspects of Form                              |
3     | 9/15-9/19| The Nature of Growth and Development                               |
4     | 9/22-9/26| Populations & Species                                               |
5     | 9/29-10/3| Naming and Description of Species & Phylogenetics                   |
6     | 10/6-10/10| Geological Society of America (Book Group I: Knoll, 2003)         |
7     | 10/13-10/17| Functional Morphology & Theoretical Morphology                   |
        |        | **MIDTERM EXAM I (Friday, October 17)**                                |
8     | 10/20-10/24| Evolutionary Rates and Trends                                       |
9     | 10/27-10/31| Global Diversification                                             |
10    | 11/3-11/7| Extinction (Book Group II: Erwin, 2006)                              |
11    | 11/10-11/14| Paleocommunities & Evolutionary Paleoecology                       |
12    | 11/17-11/21| Paleoenvironmental and Paleoclimatic Reconstruction & Paleobiogeography |
        |        | **MIDTERM EXAM II (Friday, November 21)**                             |
13    | 11/19-11/23| THANKSGIVING BREAK                                                  |
14    | 11/26-11/30| Ediacaran Biota & Cambrian Explosion & Paleocene—Eocene Thermal Maximum |
        |        | **Paleontology Research Symposium (Friday, November 30)**           |
15    | 12/5-12/9| Homo Evolution & Pleistocene Megafaunal Extinctions (Book Group III: Carroll, 2005) |
        |        | **CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM (9:00-11:00 AM)**                            |

LABS

Week  | Dates  | Topic                  | Reading                        |
---    | ---    | ---                    | ---                            |
1      | 9/2    | Fossil Preservation & Taphonomy | Handouts                       |
2      | 9/9    | NO LAB: DEPARTMENTAL FIELD TRIP | Handouts                       |
3      | 9/16   | Classification, Systematics, Cladistics | Clarkson: Chapter 4 |
4      | 9/23   | Protista and Porifera       | Clarkson: Chapter 5            |
5      | 9/30   | Cnidarians                |                               |
6      | 10/7   | TBD                      |                               |
7      | 10/14  | Lophophorates            | Clarkson: Chapters 6 & 7       |
8      | 10/21  | Arthropods               | Clarkson: Chapter 11           |
9      | 10/28  | Mollusks                 | Clarkson: Chapter 8            |
10     | 11/4   | Echinoderms              | Clarkson: Chapter 9            |
11     | 11/11  | Miscellaneous Fossil Groups| Clarkson: Chapter 10 + handouts|
12     | 11/18  | Dinosaur Locomotion       | Handouts                       |
13     | 11/25  | THANKSGIVING BREAK        |                               |
14     | 12/2   | Trace Fossils            | Clarkson: Chapter 12           |
15     | 12/9   | Lab Exam                 |                               |