GEOL 372: DINOSAURS
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
Spring 2019

Instructor: Darrin Pagnac
Office: PRL 211
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Course Time: M, W, F, 12:00-12:50
Course Location: CB 206 West
Office Hours: M: 1:00-2:30pm; T: 10:30-12:00pm

Course Description: (3-0) An in-depth introduction to dinosaur paleontology. This course will utilize geologic and biologic principles to foster a comprehension of dinosaur systematics, phylogeny, biology, and evolution. Dinosaurs will also be used as a focus to examine the scientific method, critical thinking, and the public perception of science.

Prerequisites: None

Instructional Methods: Course will be administered by means of lectures and directed discussions

Course Requirements


Cheating and plagiarism, as defined by BOR Policy 3.4.2.B.1, will not be tolerated and will result in course failure. Please refer to the Policy for Academic Integrity for further information.

No incompletes or extra credit will be allowed. Make-up work will only be allowed under extenuating circumstances or with prior instructor approval.

Grading:

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<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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<td>Study Questions</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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Participation: Participation includes punctuality, attitude, and discussion input.

Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory and unexcused absences will affect your final grade. Attorney will be taken for every class. Each class period attended is worth two points. Everyone starts the semester with 4 attendance points for free, meaning that you can miss two classes before it starts to affect your grade. At the end of the semester, your total attendance is summed and divided by the total possible attendance. Your percentage is added to your final point total for the class.
Study Questions: Each week you will complete a set of study questions based on the reading and lecture and submit them electronically in D2L. The more effort you put into these, the better you will understand the class. Do not quote or paraphrase from the book; express the answers in your own words. Each assignment is worth 20 points, awarded in the following categories:

15 points: Answers are basically complete and correct. Deductions will be taken for missing or incorrect answers, extreme brevity or carelessness, etc. Excessive quoting/paraphrasing from the book or websites will also be penalized.

3 points: Student demonstrates complex understanding of the subject material through full and knowledgeable discussion of the answers.

2 points: Student uses complete sentences and good grammar.

STUDY QUESTIONS WILL BE DUE BY 11:30PM SUNDAY EVENING. IF THEY ARE NOT TURNED IN BY THIS TIME YOU WILL RECEIVE 0 POINTS.

IF FOR SOME REASON THE D2L DROPBOX ISN’T WORKING, EMAIL YOUR STUDY QUESTIONS TO THE INSTRUCTOR AT darrin.pagnac@sdsmt.edu.

Course Goals
1) Distinguish the different taxonomic groups of dinosaurs based on overall morphology and adaptations
2) Identify the assemblages of co-occurring dinosaurs from each Mesozoic period
3) Acquire an understanding of taxonomy and phylogeny using dinosaurs as an example
4) Enhance critical thinking skills with regard to dinosaur portrayal in mass media

Using D2L
The login page for D2L can be found at http://D2L.sdbor.edu By registering for the course, you should automatically be placed in the D2L roster. To enter the course, however, you will need to enter your student ID and password. Up to date information on your initial ID and password can be found by going to the main SDSMT web page (www.sdsmt.edu) and choosing the links under Popular Links > Distance Education. The Frequently Asked Questions link provides the info you need, as well as answers to other questions.

Electronic Device Policy: Please turn off your cell phone before class starts. No text messaging in class. No headphones. If you wish to use a laptop or tablet device in this class for purposes of note taking ONLY, that’s fine. No web surfing, emailing, or game-playing in class is permitted, and violators will be excused immediately from class for the day. Repeat offenders may be dropped from the course. No other use of any other electronic/computer media is allowed during class time.

Freedom in Learning: Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under Board of Regents and University policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study. Students who believe that an academic evaluation is unrelated to academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should contact the dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation (SD Board of Regents wording).

ADA Statement
Students with special needs or requiring special accommodations should contact the instructor, Darrin Pagnac, at 394.2469 and/or the Title IX and Disability Coordinator, Ms. Nancy Sprynczynatyk, at Nancy.Sprynczynatyk@sdsmt.edu or 394-2533 at the earliest opportunity.

GEOL 372: Spring 2019 Syllabus
Title IX Statement

SD Mines is committed to providing a safe and positive learning experience. To report a violation of sexual misconduct or gender discrimination, please contact the Title IX Coordinator at 605-394-2533. * Please note that as your professor, I am required to report any incidences to the Title IX Coordinator. Confidential support for students is available by contacting the Student Counseling Center at 605-394-1924 or counseling@sdsmt.edu