

SPRING SEMESTER

1. Course requirements:

- Weekly reports (1 to 3 pp) + discussion of the assigned readings
- One term paper (15 to 20 pp max) + presentation of its contents/conclusions in an ~ 30 min. talk at the end of the semester.

2. Weekly course format:

- One class-period of *lecture* (~ 80 min.), a 15 min. *break*, and one class-period of *discussion* (~ 80 min.) each week.

3. Weekly reports:

- Please make a photocopy of your weekly report for the other members of the course. The report should contain an brief outline of the following points for the assigned readings:

1. What was the goal of the author's research?
2. What were the analytic methods used?
3. What were the results and/or conclusions of the author's research?
4. Are the conclusions convincing? Why or why not?
5. Did the author make any mistakes or oversights?
6. What would be the next logical step in this research direction?

4. Term paper:

- The *Term Paper topic* should be chosen by the time of the Spring Break. The *format of the Term Paper* may be any of the following three styles:

(1) In the style of a research paper written for *Science* (abstract, introduction to the research topic, discussion of your research on the topic, your analysis of the data available, conclusions, and references cited).

(2) In the style of a grant proposal written for NSF (outlining a research project, discussion of the data to be collected and the analytic techniques to be used, justifying the significance of the project -- that is, why NSF should give you money to conduct the research, and references cited).

(3) In the style of a review paper written for *Science* (introduction to the topic, discussion of the research literature concerning the topic, your conclusions as to the "state of the science" of the research topic, references cited).

EVOLUTIONARY PALEOECOLOGY
Earth & Planetary Sciences 538
G R McGhee

5. COURSE GRADING:

- Weekly reports + discussions (50%).
- Term paper + presentation (50%).
- There will be no examinations.

6. COURSE LECTURER:

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