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## 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:** Monday and Wednesday  
1:40 pm to 3:00 pm  
Tillett 226, Livingston Campus

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment ONLY!  
Contact Dr. Adamo at [lauren.adamo@rutgers.edu](mailto:lauren.adamo@rutgers.edu) or 848-932-7243  
(during regular business day) to set up an appointment.

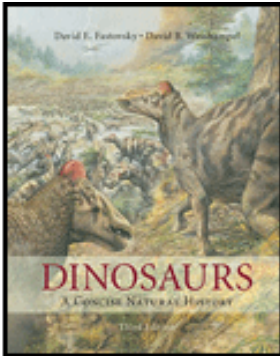
**COURSE PRE-REQUISITES:** Nothing but an interest in dinosaurian paleobiology.

### REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

1 subscription to Tophat.com

- 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.

### SUGGESTED COURSE MATERIALS:



DINOSAURS (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.), by FASTOVSKY

- 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.

## CONTACTING ME:

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 there at that time. I am also available to talk before or after class.
- Course Chatroom
  - The chatroom is another place to post non-urgent questions that either myself or the rest of the class can answer.

## GRADED WORK:

You will be given 2 exams, each covering approximately half of the course material. These exams are not cumulative but you cannot forget the material from the first half of class and it continues over into the second half. The rest of the course points will be various written assignments and online activities. These will all have due dates at various times of the semester, so it is very important to stay on top of the course announcements, etc.

Total Points: 650

Exam 1: 100 points

Exam 2: 100 points

Online Discussions: 200 points

Paleontology in the News Project: 50 points

Dinosaurs Around Us Assignment: 100 points

Virtual Dinosaur Lab Assignment: 60 points

Lecture Quizzes: 40 points

The following is the breakdown 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:* 578 points or higher

*Grade B+:* 576 to 550 points

*Grade B:* 549 to 517 points

*Grade C+:* 516 to 485 points

*Grade C:* 484 to 448 points

*Grade D:* 447 to 380 points

*Grade F:* 379 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, set up an appointment to meet at my office or over google chat. Grades will not be changed once they are submitted to the registrar, except in the case of written permission from the dean.

## Lecture 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 40 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  
Dinosaurs - Fall 2019  
Join Code: 984752  
Professor: Lauren Adamo*

## 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:** <https://canvas.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 NetID and password to access all of your class websites and click on the link for our course. 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. Gregory Mountain ([gmtm@eps.rutgers.edu](mailto:gmtm@eps.rutgers.edu)).

DATE	LECTURE TOPICS & EXAMINATIONS	READINGS
Weds. Sept 4 <sup>th</sup>	Course Overview, Introduction to Dinosaurs	
Mon Sept 9 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 1: Introduction to Geological Time	Chapters 1 & 2
Weds Sept 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 2: Major Unifying Theories	Chapter 3
Mon Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>	Online Lecture 3: Basic Concepts of Species and Macroevolution	Chapter 3
Weds Sept 18 <sup>th</sup>	Dinosaurs Return to Life	
Mon Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Online Lecture 3 continued: Basic Concepts of Species and Macroevolution continued	Chapter 3
Weds Sept 25 <sup>th</sup>	No class- Geological Society of America meeting	
Mon Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 4: Philosophies of Dinosaur Systematics	Chapter 4 & 14
Weds Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lecture 5: Evolution of the Earliest Vertebrates	Chapter 4
Mon Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 6: Invasion of the Land: The Terrestrial Ecosystem Before the Evolution of Dinosaurs	Chapter 4
Weds Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 7: What is a Reptile? The Amphibian-Reptile Transition	Chapter 4
Mon Oct 14 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 8: The Reptilian Precursors to the Dinosaur Ecosystem (The Archosaurs)	Chapter 4
Weds Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 9: Walking with the Dinosaurs: New Blood and Cruel Sea or Giants of the Skies	
Mon Oct 21 <sup>st</sup>	Lecture 10: Paleo Art Lecture	
<b>Weds Oct 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b><i>Exam 1: Covers material from lectures 1 to 10 and Dinosaurs Return to Life</i></b>	<b><i>Chapters 1 to 4</i></b>
Mon Oct 28 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 11: Classification of the Dinosaurs	Part II (pg 76-83) Part III (pg 156-159)
Weds Oct 30 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 12: The First Saurischian Dinosaurs: The Sauropodomorphs	Chapter 8
Mon Nov 4 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 13: Walking with Dinosaurs: Time of the Titans & TBA	Chapter 8
Weds Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 14: The Carnivorous Saurischians: The Theropods	Chapter 9 & 10
Mon Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 14a: The Theropods continued	Chapter 9 & 10

Weds Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 15: The Armored Ornithischians: Stegosaur, Ankylosaur	Chapter 5
Mon Nov 18 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 16: The Bipedal Ornithischians: Hypsilophodonts, Iguanodonts, and Hadrosaurs	Chapter 7
Weds Nov 20 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 17: The Last Ornithischians: Ceratopsians and the Peculiar Pachycephalosaurs	Chapter 6
Nov 25-29	No class Thanksgiving Week	
Mon Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lecture 18: The Structure and Evolution of the Dinosaur Ecosystem	Chapter 12
Weds Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 19: End of the Dinosaurs	Chapter 15
Mon Dec 9 <sup>th</sup>	No Class- AGU Meeting	
Wed Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	Class TBA: Extra credit and Museum Assignments due today in class!	
Date TBA	Second exam will be held during the finals period. Time will be announced soon.	