

Geology 127
Prehistoric Life
Fall 2010

Instructor: Penny Nicely (nicelyp@wnc.edu)

Office Hours: Monday - Wednesday 2:30-5:00PM, Room 102, Bently Hall,
or by appointment

Text: *Fossils, The History of Life*, By Richard Fortey. It is your responsibility to have the book when class starts. The book store will have this book available several weeks before the start of classes. It may also be available from other sources.

Class meets: Wednesday 7:00-9:45PM, MC, Bently Hall, Douglas, IAV to Carson 307 Cedar and Fallon VRGH 309.

Optional Lab session: Saturday, September 11 from 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM, Douglas Campus, Bently Hall Science Lab.

Course description: Surveys the history and the classification of fossil plants and animals, methods of interpretation of the fossil record, evolution of form and structure and the sequence of fossils in rocks.

This course meets 3 credits of science for AA, AAS and AGS degrees, and is a program elective for the AS Geoscience Emphasis. It is transferable.

Additional information is available in the course entry of the WNC 2009-2010 catalog.

Prerequisites: None.

Course objectives: Students will have the opportunity to gain factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends) of fossils, fossil classification, biostratigraphy and paleoecology.

Class date Reading/Lecture topic

September	1	Introduction to class/ What are Fossils? Geologic time	Chapter 1 & 2
	8	Brief history of Paleontology/ How do we name them?	Chapter 2 & 3
	15	What good are they? Biostratigraphy and Correlation	Chapter 3 & 10
	22	The great Extinctions.	Chapter 7
	29	Exam 1	
October	6	Micropaleontology	Chapter 4
	13	Sponges, Archaeocyathans and Cndarians	and
	20	No class, Instructor out of town	Supplemental
	27	Brachiopods and Bryozoans	Handouts
November	3	Arthropods	
	10	Exam 2	
	17	Molluscs	Chapter 4
	24	Echinodermata	and
December	1	Vertebrates	Supplemental
	8	Vertebrates Continued	Handouts
	15	Final Exam	

Contacting the Instructor: Preferably by e-mail at the address above. Use the course title or number in the subject line (i.e. Geology 127). Email will be checked during office hours and at least once per day Thursday – Sunday. E-mails will be answered when received. Or call the college office at 782-2413 and leave a message.

Class Format: Lecture will follow the topics listed. Reading assignments from the text are listed. You are expected to have read the assigned chapters prior to the lecture. You will be responsible for lecture material plus the assigned reading in the text and in any handouts. Questions and class participation are encouraged. Cell phones must be turned off during class – NO TEXTING or talking on phones is allowed. The microphones in all classrooms will be left open at all times. If you have questions speak up. While the instructor can see the remote classes, a raised hand may be missed.

Grading: Grades for this class will be on the points basis listed below. Everyone starts out with an A, the number of points you keep depends on you. 50 points will be given for attendance and participation. If you cannot attend class, please contact the instructor before the class for any handouts or additional information that you may miss. This class is a double session, you can miss one class with no penalty, after that you will lose 10 points for each class missed. If you miss more than two classes you will severely limit your ability to do well in the class. Final grades will be based on three exams, and attendance and participation.

Exam questions will be of the short answer variety. No multiple guess or T/F questions will be used. You will be given the full lecture period to complete each exam. Exams **may** include bonus questions. Exams may be taken early by prior arrangement with the instructor without penalty. **Exams may not be made up after the exam date.**

The only option for extra credit in this class will be the optional Saturday lab exercise (25 points if you come and do the exercise) and bonus questions on the exams.

NOTE: NO W's WILL BE GIVEN IN THIS CLASS. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw prior to the deadline if they are not satisfied with their grade standing.

Three exams @ 150 points each	450 points	A = 500 - 450
Participation and attendance	<u>50 points</u>	B = 449 - 400
Total possible	500 points	C = 399 - 350
		D = 349 - 300
		F = >299

This syllabus may be changed up to the beginning of classes.