

Geology 302D: The Age of Dinosaurs Fall 2005

Lab Syllabus

TAs	E-mail	Office hrs./rm.	Lab Times
Heather Ahrens	hahrens@mail.utexas.edu	3.106 (Lab) M 2-3 F 11-12	T 8-9:30 (26830) T 2-3:30 (26870) W 2-3:30 (26875) Th 2-3:30 (26880)
Eric Ekdale	ekdale@mail.utexas.edu	3.106 (Lab) M 11-12 W 11-12	M 9:30-11 (26850) M 3:30-5 (26890) W 9:30-11 (26855) W 3:30-5 (26895)
Jonathan R. Wagner	jonathan.r.wagner@mail.utexas.edu	TBA	Th 8-9:30 (26840) F 9:30-11 (26860) F 12:30-2 (26900) F 2-3:30 (26885)

Lab Policies

Grades: The laboratory section makes up 25% of your overall grade in this course. Failure to attend or perform in lab will have an adverse effect upon your final grade. Your lab score is based on 9 quizzes, each worth ten (10) points, and one assignment worth (20) points. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped. At the end of the semester the total number of points you earn will be turned into a percentage of the total points possible (100 points). This percentage becomes the 25% of your total score in the entire course. As you can see in the lab schedule, you have a quiz nearly every lab meeting of the semester. The quiz tests your grasp of the subject material from the previous week. It is expected that you will retain the information covered early in the semester, as many of the concepts covered early in the semester are crucial for understanding methods and concepts later in the course. Any questions concerning the grade you received on a quiz must be brought up **within 1 week** from when the quiz was returned. Any complaints about answers, or questions, brought up after 1 week will not result in a grade correction.

Attendance: We do not take attendance. We assume you are all adults and are responsible for your own academic performance. Your TA will be flexible in allowing you to attend another one of his/her lab sections **IF** you notify him/her at least 24 hours in advance. If you miss a lab without prior notification, you will receive a zero (0) for the quiz you miss. Obviously there are rare, exceptional circumstances beyond your control (vehicular accident, apartment burned down, injury or illness requiring emergency medical attention) that can arise suddenly. These will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Some reasons for rejecting a request to re-take a quiz include (but are not limited to) oversleeping, alarm didn't go off, hung-over, etc. Please keep in

mind that quizzes are given at the very beginning of lab. If you come in late, you simply have less time to complete your quiz, which in turn may have a negative effect upon your grade.

Lab specimens/equipment: **NO FOOD ALLOWED IN LAB!** Always handle specimens with care. If you drop a specimen on the floor, immediately and loudly notify all of your classmates. The rest of the class should remain still until it has been picked up. If a fossil gets pulverized under someone's heel, it is gone forever. If you break a specimen or cast, don't panic. Immediately tell your TA, and he/she will not be angry with you. Most breaks (with the exception of the aforementioned heel-grinding) can be easily repaired. However, if a TA finds broken specimens at the end of lab time, and was not notified about it, rest assured that the TA will be very unhappy. This means that you will be made very unhappy.

Contacting your TA: The names, email addresses, and lab times of each of the dinos TAs are given on the front page of this syllabus. Office hours will be given in lab. We strongly urge you to take advantage of office hours, which are traditionally under-utilized. If you cannot make your TA's office hours, see another TA to get your questions answered. Most TAs try to check their email daily, but do not be offended if you do not get an immediate response to an inquiry.

Suggested related web sites: Class Website - <http://www.geo.utexas.edu/courses/302d/>
Digital Morphology - <http://www.digimorph.org/>
X-Ray CT Facility - <http://www.ctlab.geo.utexas.edu/>