

# Geology 302D: The Age of Dinosaurs Fall 2009

## Lab Syllabus

<u>TAs</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Office hours</u>	<u>Lab Times</u>
Heather Ahrens	hahrens@mail.utexas.edu	3.202 (Lab) T 3:30 - 4:30 W 11 - 12	T 8 - 9:30 T 2 - 3:30 W 9:30 -11:00
Clint Boyd	cab@mail.utexas.edu	3.202 (Lab) T 11 - 12 Th 11 - 12	M 8 - 9:30 M 2 - 3:30 M 3:30 - 5
Michelle Stocker	mstocker@mail.utexas.edu	3.314B T 2 - 3 W1-2	W 2 - 3:30 Th 8 - 9:30 Th 2 - 3:30

### Lab Policies

**Grades:** The laboratory section makes up 20% 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 8 quizzes, each worth ten (10) points, and two assignments worth 15 points each. 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 20% 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 quizzes test 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. Please keep in mind that quizzes are given at the very beginning of lab. If you arrive after the quiz is over, you cannot take it. 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.

**Attendance:** We do not take attendance. We assume you are all adults and are responsible for your own academic performance. 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. Be sure to tell your TA immediately of any reason for missed lab.

**Lab specimens/equipment:** **NO FOOD, DRINK, OR GUM 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 Age of Dinos TAs are given on the front page of this syllabus. Office hours will be given in the lab classroom unless otherwise noted. 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 you should not be offended if you do not get an immediate response to an inquiry.

**Class web sites:**

Class Website - <http://www.geo.utexas.edu/courses/302d/>

Digital Morphology - <http://www.digimorph.org/>

Texas Memorial Museum - <http://www.utexas.edu/tmm/>

Dino Pit - [http://www.utexas.edu/tmm/sponsored\\_sites/dino\\_pit/](http://www.utexas.edu/tmm/sponsored_sites/dino_pit/)