

## GEOLOGY 422K (#27095-27110) – PALEOBIOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR - Dr. James Sprinkle - e-mail echino@mail.utexas.edu

Office - GEO 4.106; mailbox in GEO 2.112; office phone 471-4264

Office Hours - TuThF 12-1 PM, MW 1-2 PM; other times by appointment

TAs - Kyle Womack (bahlhornin@gmail.com) and Liz Dunn (liz\_dunn@mail.utexas.edu)

Office hours in Paleo. Lab, GEO 3.106; hours to be selected.

PREREQUISITES - Grades of C or better in GEO 404C or 405, in GEO 416M, and in 3-4 hours of introductory biology courses (preferably BIO 301M, or 212 + 213); requirement for GEO 416M usually waived for non-Geology majors.

COURSE TOPICS and OBJECTIVES - See Course Schedule, Goals & Objectives sheet, and Lecture Outlines at GEO 422K course website <<http://www.geo.utexas.edu/courses/422K/>>

TEXTBOOKS - Lecture - Prothero, 2003, Bringing Fossils to Life (2nd ed.): McGraw-Hill;  
Lab - Walton & Sprinkle, 1984, 2002, Lab Manual for Paleobiology: Jenn's Copy & Binding (on the Drag)

COURSE READING - Other reading assignments are in the Geology Library Reserves or in the Open Files in the back corner of the Reading Room.

FIELD TRIPS - 1. Austin and Waco area Cretaceous field trip, Sat., Sept. 27th, all day  
2. Brownwood area Pennsylvanian field trip, Sat., Oct. 25th, all day  
Students must have health insurance to go on Geology Dept. field trips.

COURSE GRADES AND EXAMS - Grades will be determined in the following manner:

|  |      |   |       |
|--|------|---|-------|
| <u>Lecture</u> - 1st Hour Exam - Tues., Oct. 7th (GSA)   | 15%  | \ |       |
| - 2nd Hour Exam - Tues., Nov. 4th                        | 15%  | } | = 55% |
| - Final Exam - Mon., Dec. 15th, 2-5 PM                   | 25%  | / |       |
| <u>Lab</u> - Midterm Exam – 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of Oct. | ~9%  | \ |       |
| - Lab Final - week of Dec. 1st                           | ~9%  | \ |       |
| - Field Trip Reports & Faunal Lists                      | ~18% | } | = 45% |
| - Laboratory Assignments                                 | ~5%  | / |       |
| - Abstract project (early in course)                     | ~4%  | / |       |

Lecture exams and the final may include any of the following types of questions: multiple choice, matching, complete-the-answer, definitions, problems, drawings or charts, and short- to intermediate-length essays. Exams are closed-book, are medium in difficulty, and typically are graded by comparing your answer to a written-out key and assigning points accordingly. Lecture exams will be cumulative, covering all previous work up to the time of that exam. A make-up exam for a missed lecture exam may be given at the instructor's discretion up to the time of the next lecture period when the corrected exams are usually returned. Marks will be carried through as numbers, added up at the end of the course, and then curved to get a final letter grade. Last fall's average mark was a 76.8 (top mark 92, lowest mark 58, and there were 10 A's, 15 B's, 13 C's, and 1 D, out of a class of 39, for a 2.87 overall class GPA.

No special policy on drops, incompletes, or time extensions; see General Information Catalog, Part V. The last day to drop the course without possible academic penalty is Sept. 24, 2008; the last day to drop the course for academic reasons is Oct. 22, 2008. Although you are encouraged to work together in the field and lab, all written work turned in for a grade (exams, reports, lists) must be your own work; there are severe penalties for cheating (exams), plagiarism (using someone else's ideas or written work without credit), or collusion (turning in another student's work as your own).