

UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM

SECTION II. INTEGRATIVE STUDIES - INTERDISCIPLINARY

1. COURSE NUMBER: **GEOL 328i**

SEMESTER HOURS: **3**

COURSE TITLE: **Dinosaurs and the Age of Reptiles**

Start Date: Summer 1998

2. COURSE FORMAT: Lecture and discussion. Average class size: 30.

3. STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to: (a) understand dinosaurs' place in the phylogeny of tetrapods (four-footed vertebrates) and in continental and coastal paleoenvironments; (b) understand evolutionary innovations or novelties and their importance in each of the major dinosaurian groups to their lifestyles and success; (c) understand the basic scientific concepts used in the study of dinosaurs and their environment; (d) become familiar with the major dinosaur groups and their contemporaries; (e) to become familiar with the evidence for dinosaurs' paleobiology and behavior; (f) become familiar with the approaches and evidence used to interpret the evolution of birds and the extinction of dinosaurs; and (g) demonstrate communication skills and critical thinking.

4. DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will provide interested students with a better understanding of one of the most intriguing and publicized fossil groups, **Dinosaurs**. The course will introduce **what we know about dinosaurs** – their fossils, morphologies, origin, types, relatives, relationships, modes of life, distributions (temporal and spatial), environments, and extinctions – and – **how we know it** – interdisciplinary application of basic scientific concepts of geology, paleobiology, paleoecology, and paleoenvironmental analysis.

5. REQUIRED READING: Lucas, *Dinosaurs: The Textbook* (3rd edition, 1999); Stanley, *Earth System History* (1999).

6. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: The grade will be determined from a percent score form with a total of 400 points as follows:

- Hour exam #1 20%
- Hour exam #2 20%
- Hour exam #3 20%
- Quizzes 20%
- Final exam 20%
- Term project 10%

7. ADVANCED UCC COURSE(S): None

6/15/04