COURSE SYLLABUS
Florida Vertebrate Paleontology
ZOO 6927 | Section number 2H34
ZOO 4926 | Section number 2383
GLY 6932 | Section number 202A
GLY 4930 | Section number 202F

Spring, 2018
Class meetings: Turlington Hall (RM 2328).
Meeting Time: Tuesday (T) 12:50-2:45 (Periods 6-7)

Instructors
Dr. Jonathan I. Bloch, email: jbloch@flmnh.ufl.edu; Office Hours: contact me to set these up, but
Monday mornings are the best for me.
Dr. Richard Hulbert, email: rhulbert@flmnh.ufl.edu

Fieldtrip Assistant: Rachel Narducci, email: rnarducci@flmnh.ufl.edu

Description: Come help us dig up fossils! This special topics course is designed to provide an
overview of Florida fossil vertebrates through weekly lectures and discussions plus direct experience
with vertebrate paleontology fieldwork in Florida. We will be especially focused on digging at a late
Miocene fossil vertebrate locality close to Williston, Florida.

Credit Hours: 2

Course Objectives
Students are expected to:

- Participate in weekly meetings to discuss field schedule, participate in presentations and
discussions about Florida Vertebrate Paleontology, and discuss class projects focused on
social media and public communication (blogs, online videos, etc.) about our fossil digging
experiences.

- Enrolled students must participate in a minimum of 4 individual day trips during the
semester (although more is perfectly fine). We will try and organize weekend days that
we can go out together as a class. While going out as a group is preferred, if those days do
not fit your particular schedule, other options are available (the museum will be digging 5
days/week during the semester). Transportation to/from the site from campus will be
available if needed. A full day of digging is expected for each trip. Students should bring their
own lunch and drinks for these day trips.

Optional Text
2001. Hardbound; 384 pages; 341 drawings and black and white photographs; glossary; index; and
references. ISBN 0-8130-1822-6

Available at the Florida Museum of Natural History gift shop, at bookstores, amazon.com,
barnesandnoble.com, and directly from the publisher.

Grading
Evaluation based on in-class participation (25%), class projects, (15%) and fieldtrip participation
(60%). There is no final exam other than the class projects as final products (we will present/talk
about those on the last day of class).
**Class Schedule (Please Note: subject to change):**

| Jan. 9 | Introduction | Introduction to the course & tour of Vertebrate Paleontology collections & labs at Dickinson Hall (we will walk there together from the meeting room after the introduction). |
| 16    | Field Trip-Fossil Exhibit | Meet in the lobby of Powell Hall (the Exhibit Museum) for a tour of the fossil exhibits. |
| 23    | Lecture/Discussion | Overview of Florida Fossil Vertebrates, geological time scale, vertebrate skeletal anatomy  
Optional Reading: Hulbert--Chapters 1-2 |
| 30    | Lecture/Discussion | Fossil Fish  
Optional Reading: Hulbert--Chapter 4 |
| Feb. 6 | Lecture/Discussion | Fossil Amphibians & Reptiles  
Optional Reading: Hulbert--Chapters 5-7 |
| 13    | Lecture/Discussion | Fossil Birds  
Optional Reading: Hulbert--Chapter 8 |
| 20    | Lecture/Discussion | Fossil Mammals: marsupials, insectivores, bats, & primates  
Optional Reading: Hulbert--Chapter 9 |
| 27    | Lecture/Discussion | Fossil Mammals: Xenarthrans (sloths, armadillos)  
Optional Reading: Hulbert--Chapter 9 |
| Mar. 6 | **No Class** | **UF Spring Break** |
| 13    | Lecture/Discussion | Fossil Mammals: Carnivorans  
Optional Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 11 |
| 20    | Lecture/Discussion | Fossil Mammals: Rodents & Lagomorphs  
Optional Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 12 |
| 27    | Lecture/Discussion | Fossil Mammals: Artiodactyls  
Optional Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 13 |
| Apr. 3 | Lecture/Discussion | Fossil Mammals: Perissodactyls  
Optional Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 14 |
| 10    | Lecture/Discussion | Fossil Mammals: Proboscideans  
Optional Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 15 |
| 17    | Lecture/Discussion | Fossil Mammals: Marine Mammals  
Optional Reading: Hulbert—Chapters 116-17 |
| 24    | Discussion | Summary of the course & short presentations of your experiences in the field collecting fossils (bring pictures!) |