COURSE SYLLABUS
Florida Vertebrate Paleontology
ZOO 6927 | Section number 2390
ZOO 4926 | Section number 35H8
GLY 6932 | Section number 5544
GLY 4930 | Section number 4455

Spring, 2024
Class meetings: Monday, CRR 221
Meeting Time: 10:40am-12:35pm

Instructor
Dr. Jonathan I. Bloch, email: jbloch@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 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 field experience and background research focused on fossils found at Montbrook fossil locality.
- 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. 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.

Text
Fossil Vertebrates of Florida. Edited by Richard C. Hulbert, Jr. University Press of Florida, February, 2001. Hardbound; 384 pages; 341 drawings and black and white photographs; glossary; index; and references. ISBN 0-8130-1822-6

Other Reading

MacFadden, B. (2017). Vertebrate paleontology at the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida: the past 60 years of research and education. *Bulletin of the Florida Museum of Natural History*, *55*(3), 51-87. https://flmnhbulletin.com/index.php/flmnh/article/view/flmnh-vol55-no3

Information about fossil locality:

https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/montbrook/

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. Alos still need to work out what day of the week. If Thursday, this is what it would look like***):

Jan.	8	First Meeting	Introduction and Overview of Montbrook fossil locality and public dig program. Discussion of fieldwork and class projects.
	15	**Holiday/no class**	**MLK**
	22	Fossil Exhibit	Meet in the lobby of Powell Hall (the Exhibit Museum) for a tour of the fossil exhibits.
	29	Lecture/Discussion	Tour of collections (meet in the courtyard of Dickinson Hall) Reading: MacFadden (2017)
Feb.	5	Lecture/Discussion	Overview of Florida Fossil Vertebrates Reading: Hulbert—Chapters 1-2
	12	Lecture/Discussion	Fossil Fishes & Amphibians Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 4-5
	19	Lecture/Discussion	Fossil Turtles & Tortoises Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 6
	26	Lecture/Discussion	Fossil Lizards, Snakes, and Crocodilians Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 7
Mar.	4	Lecture/Discussion	Fossil Birds and Small Mammals Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 8-9
	11	**Holiday/no class**	**Spring Break**
	18	Lecture/Discussion	Fossil Mammals: Xenarthrans & Great American Biotic Interchange Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 10, TBD
	25	Lecture/Discussion	Fossil Mammals: Carnivorans Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 11
April	1	Lecture/Discussion	Fossil Mammals: Rodents, & Lagomorphs Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 12
	8	Lecture/Discussion	Fossil Mammals: Perissodactyls, Artiodactyls, & Whales Reading: Hulbert--Chapter 13-14, 17
	15	Lecture/Discussion	Fossil Afrotheria (Proboscideans and Sirenians) Reading: Hulbert--Chapter 15-16
	22	Presentation of Projects	Results of Field Participation and individual research topic