

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Florida Vertebrate Paleontology

ZOO 6927 | Section number 23422

ZOO 4926 | Section number 25159

GLY 6932 | Section number 1231

GLY 4930 | Section number 4455

### Spring, 2026

Class meetings: Dickinson Hall Seminar Room, #371

Meeting Time: Tuesday 12:50pm-2:45pm

### Instructor

Dr. Jonathan I. Bloch, email: [jbloch@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:jbloch@flmnh.ufl.edu)

### Office hours: TBD

**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

Articles from primary literature and book chapters will also be required and made available, as needed.

### 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 final exam day).

## Class Schedule (Please Note: *subject to change*)

Jan. 13	First Meeting	Introduction and Overview of Montbrook fossil locality and public dig program. Discussion of fieldwork and class projects.
20	Lecture/Discussion	Tour of collection and prep lab (meet in courtyard of Dickinson Hall)
27	Lecture/Discussion	Overview of Florida Fossil Vertebrates & GABI Reading: Hulbert—Chapters 1-2
Feb. 3	Lecture/Discussion	Common Fossils (Aquatic): Cartilaginous & Bony Fishes Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 4
10	Lecture/Discussion	Common Fossils (Aquatic): Amphibians (frogs, toads, salamanders) Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 5
17	Lecture/Discussion	Common Fossils (Aquatic/Terrestrial): Turtles and Tortoises Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 6
24	Lecture/Discussion	Common Fossils (Aquatic/Terrestrial): Lizards, Snakes, & Crocodylians Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 7
Mar. 3	Lecture/Discussion	Common Fossil Mammals (Terrestrial): Proboscideans Reading: Hulbert--Chapter 16
10	Lecture/Discussion	Common Fossil Mammals (Terrestrial): Perissodactyls Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 14
17	<b>Holiday/no class</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
24	Lecture/Discussion	Common Fossil Mammals (Terrestrial): Artiodactyls Reading: Hulbert--Chapter 13
31	Lecture/Discussion	Less Common Fossil Mammals (Terrestrial): Carnivorans Reading: Hulbert—Chapter 11
April 7	Lecture/Discussion	Less Common Fossil Mammals (Terrestrial): Rodents & Lagomorphs Reading: Hulbert--Chapter 12
14	Lecture/Discussion	Rare Fossils (Terrestrial): Small mammals Reading: Hulbert--Chapter 9
21	Lecture/Discussion	Rare Fossils (Terrestrial): Birds Reading: Hulbert--Chapter 8
29	Final: Presentation of Projects	Results of Field Participation and individual research topic

## **COURSE POLICIES**

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### **Class Demeanor**

Students are expected to be to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please do not use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. See the [UF Conduct Code website](#) for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructors or TAs in this class.

### **Communication, Content and Delivery**

Assignments and notifications will be provided using the course website

### **Materials & Supplies fees**

There are no additional fees for this course.

### **Attendance and Make-up assignments**

Attendance is required and is part of the final grade. Other requirements for class attendance, assignments, and related matters are consistent with [university policies](#).

### **Recording Policy**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal education use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and deliver by an instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentation such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private 3 Revised: September 2024 conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless, of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section.

Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

### **Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under 2 Revised: September 2024 GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### **Disability Accommodation**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the [“Get Started With the DRC” webpage](#) on the Disability Resource Center site. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### **UF Counseling Resources**

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. The resources include:

- UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd, 392-1575, psychological and psychiatric services.
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career and job search services.

Many students experience test anxiety and other stress related problems. The [Counseling and Wellness Center](#) can help you address those problems (4<sup>th</sup> floor at Peabody Hall, 392-1575).

### **CAMPUS RESOURCES**

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**U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

**Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the [Student Health Care Center website](#).

**University Police Department:** Visit [UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

**UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

**GatorWell Health Promotion Services:** For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273- 4450.

**E-learning technical support:** Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

**Career Connections Center:** Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392- 1601. [Career assistance and counseling services](#).

**Library Support:** Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the [libraries or finding resources](#). Call 866-281-6309 or email [ask@ufl.libanswers.com](mailto:ask@ufl.libanswers.com) for more information.

**Teaching Center:** 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. [General study skills and tutoring](#).

**Writing Studio:** Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). [Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers](#).

**Academic Complaints:** Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information. Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage](#) for more information.

## **DISCLAIMER**

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This syllabus and course requirements are subject to change. If changes occur, these will be communicated to the students.