Course Description:
The origin and diversification of dinosaurs, including birds. A survey of evolutionary relationships within the group, and between the major groups of vertebrates. Broad introduction including anatomy, geography, climate, and vertebrate contemporaries.

Location & Time:
IV Theater #1, Mondays and Wednesdays @ 12:30-1:45 pm.

Professor:
Susannah Porter
Office: Webb Hall (Geological Sciences) Rm. 1117
Phone: x8954
E-mail: porter@geol.ucsb.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00-12:00 pm or by appointment.

Labs (a.k.a. Sections):
All sections meet in Physical Sciences Building South, Room 2725.
For more information about labs, see Lab syllabus handout (posted on website).

| Tuesday 9:00 Michele Conrad | Wednesday 11:00 Francesco Civilini |
| Tuesday 10:00 Eric White    | Wednesday 3:00 Michele Conrad      |
| Tuesday 11:00 Eric White    | Wednesday 4:00 Michele Conrad      |
| Tuesday 12:00 David Wampler | Wednesday 5:00 Michele Conrad      |
| Tuesday 3:00 David Wampler  | Thursday 10:00 Eric White          |
| Tuesday 4:00 David Wampler  | Thursday 11:00 Eric White          |
| Tuesday 5:00 David Wampler  | Thursday 4:00 John Moore           |
| Wednesday 10:00 Francesco Civilini | Thursday 5:00 John Moore |

TA information:

Head TA: John Moore (dinosaurTA@gmail.com)

TA contacts and office hours:
- Francesco Civilini, fcivilini@umail.ucsb.edu, Ellison 6709, Tuesday 10:00-11:00 am
- Michele Conrad, mconrad@umail.ucsb.edu, Noble Hall 1019, Monday 9:00-10:00 am
- John Moore, jimoore@umail.ucsb.edu, Webb 1115, Monday 10:00-11:00 am
- David Wampler, dfw@umail.ucsb.edu, Webb 2012, Thursday 6:00-7:00 pm
- Eric White, ebwhite@umail.ucsb.edu, Cloud 1113, Thursday 4:00-5:00 pm
Textbook:

*The textbook is optional. You will not be tested directly on the material in the text.*


Lab "Manual": Download lab exercises from the course website.

**Basis for Course Grade:**

- Midterm I 15%
- Midterm II 20%
- Final 32.5%
- Lab 25%
- Quiz Questions 7.5%

**Grading Policies & General Suggestions**

- Midterms and Final may be curved (up) if the mean score is lower than 77%. Lab grades will be standardized for each TA, so no need to worry if your TA happens to be a more stringent grader than your friend's TA.

- If you need to take the midterm or final at a different time, you must contact Professor Porter before the day of the exam or, preferably, earlier to see about taking a makeup. If you do not contact me beforehand, permission to make up missed exams will only be given if there is a documented excuse (e.g., you were sick that morning and have a note from your doctor).

- Remember that if you take the class Pass/No Pass a C- is a failing grade, so be careful when you decide to sign up for P/NP.

- I do not give extra credit. And I do have sympathy for seniors who are just trying to get their last few credits to graduate and they have failed my class and only need a few more points to pass….but I still won't change your grade. Sorry.

- Finally, if you are struggling with the class or with other things in your life, please come and see me (either at office hours or by appt.). We can try to work something out, and I can give you some pointers as to how best to study the material. Believe it or not, it means a lot to professors to know that you care enough to get in touch and ask for help.
Class Schedule

Caveat: the following is an outline of intent, not a promise. Lecture topics may change or the order may be rearranged.

WEEK 1  NO LAB
Sept 26  Lecture 1: Introduction to Dinosaurs & a Brief History of Dinosaur Research
Sept 28  Lecture 2: Science and Deep Time

WEEK 2  LAB 1: Rocks and Fossils
Oct 3   Lecture 3: The Fossil Record and Age Determination
Oct 5   Lecture 4: Evolution and the Organization of Life

WEEK 3  LAB 2: Plate Tectonics
Oct 10  Lecture 5: Plate Tectonics (Guest Lecturer Tanya Atwater)
Oct 12  NO LECTURE (Prof. is traveling)

WEEK 4  LAB 3: Cladograms
Oct 19  Lecture 7: Vertebrate Evolution II

WEEK 5  LAB 4: Vertebrate Evolution: Gnathostomes to Ornithodires
Oct 24  MIDTERM I
Oct 26  Lecture 8: The Rise of Dinosaurs

WEEK 6  LAB 5: Ornithischians I: Armored Dinosaurs
Oct 31  Lecture 9: Ornithischians I: The Armored Dinosaurs
Nov 2   Lecture 10: Ornithischians II: Ornithopods and Marginheads
WEEK 7  LAB 6: Ornithischians II: Cerapoda
Nov 7  Lecture 11: Ornithischians III: Ceratopsians; and Saurischians I: Sauropodomorphs
Nov 9  Lecture 12: Saurischians II: Sauropodomorphs continued

WEEK 8  LAB 7: Saurischians I: Sauropodomorphs*
Nov 14  MIDTERM II
Nov 16  Lecture 13: Saurischians III: Theropods

WEEK 9  LAB 8: Saurischians II: Theropoda
Nov 21  Lecture 14: Saurischians IV: The Origin of Birds
Nov 23  Lecture 15: Dinosaur Contemporaries

* Thursday is Thanksgiving holiday. Students in Thursday’s lab may instead choose another lab to attend that week. We will be holding extra lab meetings on Monday and Tuesday to accommodate everyone (times to be determined). Although you usually need to contact the head TA if you would like to attend another lab section, you do not need to do so this week.

WEEK 10  LAB 9: Modern Dinosaurs
Nov 28  Lecture 16: Dinosaur World
Nov 30  Lecture 17: The Extinction of the Dinosaurs

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 6th, 12-3pm, IV Theater #1