Course Organization: 3 meetings per week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday).

Grade:  
Test 1: 20%  Smithsonian Assignment I: 12.5%  
Test 2: 20%  Smithsonian Assignment II: 12.5%  
Final: 20%  Other Homework, Quizzes: 15%  

No separate extra credit assignments are planned for this course.

NOTE: Late Assignments will be docked 10% of the total grade for the first class day missed (without a valid excuse); an additional 20% for the next; and an additional 30% (for a total of ~60%) for the third class day late. After that point, the grade for that assignment will be a 0.

Grade Scale: ≥90, A; 80-89, B; 70-79, C; 60-69, D; <60, F. “+” and “-” grades are given to the top and bottom two-point range, respectively, within each grade.

Dinosaurs: A Natural History is a CORE course. CORE Distributive Studies courses are designed to ensure that you will take a look at several different academic disciplines and the way they create and analyze knowledge about the world. A faculty and student committee approved this CORE Distributive Studies course because it will introduce you to the ideas and issues that are central to a major intellectual discipline and because it promises to involve you actively in the learning process. Please take advantage of the opportunities this course offers you.


(Additional reading resources, not required for this class, are listed after the syllabus and on the web page).

Website:  
http://www.geol.umd.edu/~tholtz/G104/  
The Website contains a copy of the course policies, the syllabus, lecture notes, copies of the handouts, dinosaur-related web links, and other features. Please feel free to utilize this resource, and email Dr. Holtz with any suggestions on improving this resource.

Email Discussion List:  
In order to facilitate discussion, an email discussion list will be organized for this class. This list can be used to propose questions for discussion; to ask for clarification of topics; and so forth. Details will be provided during the second week of class.

Policies:  
Absolutely no cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, or plagiarism, as per the University of Maryland at College Park Code of Academic Integrity (see pp. 41-44 of the UMCP 2005/2006 Undergraduate Catalog or online at http://www.jpo.umd.edu/). All work on quizzes, tests, take-home assignments, etc. must be your own. Although group study can be very useful, make sure that all your work you turn in is your own.

Absences from exams will not be excused except for those causes approved by University policy (see p. 33-34 of the UMCP 2004/2005 Undergraduate Catalog). Only those students excused for these causes will be eligible for a make-up exam.

Quizzes will, for the most part, be unannounced, be at the start of class, and cover both the readings and lectures.
Attendance in class is expected. Much of the information presented is not available in the textbook. If you cannot make a certain lecture, try and find another student who might lend your their notes. (In fact, establishing a study group early in the course has proven useful for many students in the past). Furthermore, absence from class may result in you missing an unannounced quiz.

Keep up with the required readings! Although the format of the lectures and the chapters do not always match, the readings are important as well. Some of the material to be tested is covered in more detail in the readings than in class.

Readings should be done prior to the classtime they are listed.

**NOTE:** As part of the nature of the course, there will be a lot of memorization (less than a foreign language class, but more than that found in more mathematically-oriented introductory science classes). This will include lots of anatomical, geological, and paleontological terms, as well as evolutionary and temporal relationships. If you have difficulty memorizing, this may not be the class for you. Also, if there are words or concepts with which you are not familiar, feel free to ask Dr. Holtz (in class, after class, over email, etc.) for an explanation or clarification.

**Course Evaluations:** As with all CMPS classes, the course evaluations will be done online during the last several weeks of the semester. The expectation is that all students will complete these. This is YOUR chance to anonymously evaluate this class: please use this opportunity!
**MAIN SYLLABUS**

Aug. 31  Introduction: What is Science? What are Dinosaurs?  
Reading: Chap. 1

Sept. 2  Fossils and Rocks; The Meaning of Fossils  
Reading: Chap. 2

Sept. 5  LABOR DAY—No Class

Sep. 7  The History of Prehistory: Dinosaur research through time  
**Geology Assignment is handed out**

Sept. 9  Deep Time I: Dating the fossil record  
Reading: Chap. 2

Sept. 12  Deep Time II: Millions of years ago…  
Reading: Chap. 2

Sept. 14  Plate Tectonics and the Earth Engine  
Reading: Chap. 2  
**Smithsonian Assignment I is handed out**

Sept. 16  No Class Meeting: you may wish to begin to work on Smithsonian Assignment at this time

Sept. 19  Evolution I: Descent with Modification  
Reading: Chaps. 3-4  
**Geology Assignment is DUE**

Sept. 21  Evolution II: On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection  
Reading: Chaps. 3-4

Sept. 23  Evolution III: Patterns and Processes; and Systematics I: Taxonomy  
Reading: Chaps. 3-4  
**Anatomy & Systematics Assignment is handed out**

Sept. 26  Systematics II: The Tree of Life  
Reading: Chaps. 3-4

Sept. 28  Systematics III: Cladistics  
Reading: Chaps. 3-4

Sept. 30  Evolution of the Vertebrates I & II  
Reading: Chaps. 4 & 5  
**Anatomy & Systematics Assignment is DUE**

Oct. 3  Life on Land Before the Dinosaurs  
Reading: Chap. 5

Oct. 5  The Origin of Dinosauria  
Reading: Chap. 5

Oct. 7  **TEST I**

Oct. 10  The Dinosaur Family Tree: What is a dinosaur?  
Reading: pp. 102-106, 222-226  
**Smithsonian Assignment I is DUE!**
Reading: Chaps. 6-7

Oct. 14  Ornithopoda: Beaks, bills & crests  
Reading: Chap. 10  
**Video Assignment is handed out**

Oct. 17  Marginocephalia: That’s using your head!  
Readings: Chaps. 8-9  
**Smithsonian Assignment II is handed out**

Oct. 19, 21  No lectures: work on the video assignment this week. During the week of October 17-21, you will be required to view a set of videos on Dial Access on the 4th Floor Nonprint Media room of Hornbake Library. You will be required to turn in your answers to the take-home video assignments on Friday November 4.

Oct. 24  Sauropodomorpha: Size matters!  
Reading: Chap. 11

Oct. 26  Theropoda I: Dinosaurs red in tooth and claw  
**Dinosaur Relationships Assignment is handed out**  
Reading: Chap. 12

Oct. 28  Theropoda II: Tyrants, ostrich mimics, and more  
Reading: Chap. 13

Oct. 30  **Daylight Savings Time ends: Set your clocks so that you don’t miss class!**

Reading: Chap. 14

Nov. 2  Theropoda IV: Mesozoic Birds and the Origin of Flight  
Reading: Chap. 14  
**Dinosaur Relationships Assignment is DUE**

Nov. 4  Dinosaur History I: Dinosaurs Inherit the Earth  
Reading: Chap. 16  
**Video Assignment is DUE!**

Nov. 7  Dinosaur History II: Time of the Titans and Flowering of the Age of Dinosaurs  
Reading: Chap. 16

Nov. 9  Dinosaur History III: The Many Worlds of the Late Cretaceous  
Reading: Chap. 16

Nov. 11  **TEST II**

Nov. 14  Dinosaur Growth and Behavior  
Reading: Chap. 15

Nov. 16  Hot- or Cold-Running Dinosaurs?  
**Dinosaur Physiology Assignment is handed out**  
Reading: Chap. 15

Nov. 18  Hearts, Lungs, and Faces: New Approaches to Dinosaur Physiology  
Reading: Chap. 15
Nov. 21   Eat or be Eaten: Dinosaur Paleoecology
          Reading: Chap. 15

Nov. 23   Dinosaur Physiology roundup
          Reading: Chap. 15
          **Smithsonian Assignment II is DUE!**

Nov. 24-27  **Thanksgiving Recess: enjoy your roasted maniraptoran**

Nov. 28   Dragons of the Sea and Air: Marine Reptiles and Pterosaurs
          **Dinosaur Physiology Assignment is DUE**

Nov. 30   In the Shadow of the Dinosaurs: The First 7/10th of Mammalian History

Dec. 2    The Cretaceous-Tertiary Extinction I: Definitions and Dramatis Personae
          Reading: Chaps. 17-18
          **Dinosaur Extinction Assignment is handed out**

Dec. 5    The Cretaceous-Tertiary Extinction II: One REALLY Bad Day!
          Reading: Chaps. 17-18

Dec. 7    The Cretaceous-Tertiary Extinction III: Not With a Bang, But a Whimper
          Reading: Chaps. 17-18

Dec. 9    The Cretaceous-Tertiary Extinction IV: The Big Picture
          Reading: Chaps. 17-18
          **Dinosaur Extinction Assignment is DUE!**

Dec. 12   Walking with Dinosaurs in Jurassic Park: Dinosaurs in Pop Culture

Dec. 21 (**WEDNESDAY!!**)  **FINAL EXAM**, PLS 1130, 8:00-10:00 am

[PLEASE NOTE: Final Schedule according to Schedule of Classes, Fall 2005 First Edition. Consult Final Edition for actual time and date, if any changes. Changes have been known to happen!]