



Course Approval Form

For instructions see:
<http://registrar.gmu.edu/facultystaff/catalog-revisions/course/>

Action Requested:

Create new course Inactivate existing course Reinstate inactive course

Modify existing course (check all that apply)

Title Credits Repeat Status Grade Type

Prereq/coreq Schedule Type Restrictions

Other: _____

Course Level:

Undergraduate

Graduate

College/School: Department:

Submitted by: Ext: Email:

Subject Code: Number: Effective Term: Fall Spring Summer Year:

(Do not list multiple codes or numbers. Each course proposal must have a separate form.)

Title: Current Banner (30 characters max w/ spaces) New

Fulfills Mason Core Req? (undergrad only)

Currently fulfills requirement

Submission in progress

Credits: (check one) Fixed Variable or Repeat Status: (check one) Not Repeatable (NR) Repeatable within degree (RD) Repeatable within term (RT) Maximum credits allowed:

Grade Mode: (check one) Regular (A, B, C, etc.) Satisfactory/No Credit Special (A, B, C, etc. +IP)

Schedule Type: (check one) Lecture (LEC) Lab (LAB) Recitation (RCT) Internship (INT)

Independent Study (IND) Seminar (SEM) Studio (STU)

Prerequisite(s): Corequisite(s):

Instructional Mode: 100% face-to-face Hybrid: ≤ 50% electronically delivered 100% electronically delivered

Restrictions Enforced by System: Major, College, Degree, Program, etc. Include Code.

Are there equivalent course(s)? Yes No If yes, please list _____

Catalog Copy for NEW Courses Only (Consult University Catalog for models)

| Description (No more than 60 words, use verb phrases and present tense) | Notes (List additional information for the course) |
|--|--|
| Paleontology Seminar presents topical research in paleontology and paleobiology in a structured discussion among graduate students and paleontology faculty. A theme for the seminar is chosen each semester the course is offered, tailored to the interests of the students. | |
| Indicate number of contact hours: Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: <input type="text" value="1"/> Hours of Lab or Studio: <input type="text"/> | |
| When Offered: (check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spring | |

Approval Signatures

Department Approval _____ Date _____ College/School Approval _____ Date _____

If this course includes subject matter currently dealt with by any other units, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

| Unit Name | Unit Approval Name | Unit Approver's Signature | Date |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

For Graduate Courses Only

Graduate Council Member _____ Provost Office _____ Graduate Council Approval Date _____

Course Proposal Submitted to the Curriculum Committee of the College of Science

1. COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:

GEOL 536

Course Prerequisites: None

Catalog Description: Paleontology Seminar presents topical research in paleontology and paleobiology in a structured discussion among graduate students and paleontology faculty. A theme for the seminar is chosen each semester the course is offered, tailored to the interests of the students.

2. COURSE JUSTIFICATION:

Course Objectives: This course will provide one of the required two credits of seminar for the Earth Systems Science MS.

Course Necessity: AOES currently does not provide any seminars for MS students in support of the MS in ESS degree.

Course Relationship to Existing Programs: This GEOL seminar course will be one of the required options offered by AOES for the MS in ESS degree.

Course Relationship to Existing Courses: Course content is focused on paleontology and does not conflict with existing courses.

3. APPROVAL HISTORY: Approved by AOES faculty on 21 Nov 2014.

4. SCHEDULING AND PROPOSED INSTRUCTORS:

Semester of Initial Offering: Fall '15

Proposed Instructors: Individualized

5. TENTATIVE SYLLABUS: See below.

PALEONTOLOGY GRADUATE SEMINAR
GEOLOGY 536, SPRING 2015

Instructor: Dr. Mark D. Uhen
Contact Info: muhen@gmu.edu
3414 Exploratory Hall
Office Hours: TBD

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are expected to have read the syllabus and be familiar with expectations, due dates for assignments, and dates and times for quizzes and exams. The syllabus will be posted on the Blackboard system and students are expected to pay attention to any changes that are made over the course of the semester.

Communication: Students are expected to check their Mason email and the Blackboard system regularly for information about the course. Students are expected to have read the syllabus and be familiar with expectations, due dates for assignments, and presentations. The syllabus, including the schedule is posted on Blackboard and students are expected to pay attention to any changes that are made over the course of the semester. Failure to be aware of information posted to a student's Mason email account or on Blackboard is not a valid excuse for missing assignments, assignment instructions, tests, presentations or student responsibilities of any kind.

This course operates under the rules of the George Mason University Honor System and Code. Please be familiar with the code.

Students are expected to be respectful of the instructor and each other during class. Demonstrate that respect by please, turning off your cell phone and instant messaging during class.

If you are a student with a disability and you think that you need academic accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703-993-2472 or ods@gmu.edu immediately if you have not already done so. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. You must then bring the accommodation recommendations to your instructor(s) immediately.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Develop your ability to comprehend and analyze concepts in paleontology
- Develop critical thinking skills and the ability to integrate information on a topic from several primary sources of scientific information
- Develop your skills in presenting scientific ideas in a clear and concise manner
- Develop analytical skills in paleontology

COURSE FORMAT AND GRADING

At the initial meeting of the course, students will meet with the instructor and decide on a general topic for the semester. This could be a particular method of analysis, group of organisms, time period, etc. Once the topic is chosen, the students and instructor will develop a reading list for the rest of the term. At the second meeting, the discussion of the first item on the reading list will be led by the instructor. At subsequent meetings, the discussion will be led by individual students.

Each week, the group will discuss one or more papers on a topic. Everyone is expected to read all assigned papers. Each assigned paper will be adopted by a student who will lead the class discussion of the paper and provide a handout.

- Each assigned reading will be adopted by a student who will lead the class discussion.
- The discussion leader will provide background, explain key terms and concepts, etc. The goal is to lead a group discussion, not give a lecture, and the discussion leader should be prepared with leading questions to prompt debate;
- The discussion leader will provide a discussion guide for the class. The guide might contain: an explanation of terms or concepts; a summary of key points and results; graphs or figures from other papers relevant to the discussion; a list of related references; and provocative questions or statements to prompt discussion.

Grading is on a pass/fail basis. Students are expected to fully participate in discussion and presentations of papers to the group.
