

# Course Change Request

Date Submitted: 12/03/24 4:02 pm

Viewing: **GEOL 334 : Vertebrate Paleontology**

Last approved: 08/16/23 6:06 am

Last edit: 01/07/25 9:39 am

Changes proposed by: ggilleau

Catalog Pages  
referencing this  
course

[Biology \(BIOL\)](#)

[Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences](#)

Select modification type:

## In Workflow

1. **AOES Curriculum Committee**
2. **AOES Chair**
3. **SC Curriculum Committee**
4. SC Assistant Dean
5. Assoc Provost- Undergraduate
6. Registrar-Courses
7. Banner

## Approval Path

1. 12/04/24 2:36 pm  
Barry Klinger  
(bklinger):  
Approved for AOES  
Curriculum  
Committee
2. 12/04/24 3:20 pm  
Mark Uhen  
(muhen): Approved  
for AOES Chair

## History

1. Aug 30, 2017 by  
pchampan
2. Dec 21, 2018 by  
Gregory Craft  
(gcraft)
3. May 14, 2021 by  
Jennifer Bazaz  
Gettys (jbazaz)
4. Apr 5, 2022 by  
Jennifer Bazaz

Gettys (jbazaz)  
5. Aug 16, 2023 by  
Tory Sarro (vsarro)

~~Specialized Course Designation~~

Substantial

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

No

**Effective Term:** Fall 2025

**Subject Code:** GEOL - Geology

**Course Number:** 334

**Bundled Courses:**

**Is this course replacing another course?** No

**Equivalent Courses:** BIOL 334 - Vertebrate Paleontology

**Catalog Title:** Vertebrate Paleontology

**Banner Title:** Vertebrate Paleontology

**Will section titles vary by semester?** No

**Credits:** 4

**Schedule Type:** Lecture w/Lab

**Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week:** 3

**Hours of Lab or Studio per week:** 3

**Repeatable:** May be only taken once for credit, limited to 3 attempts (N3)

**Max Allowable Credits:**  
12

**Default Grade Mode:** Undergraduate Regular

**Recommended Prerequisite(s):**

~~Any two courses from the following list: GEOL 101 + GEOL 103, GEOL 102, BIOL 103, BIOL 102, BIOL 213, BIOL 300, or the permission of the instructor.~~

**Recommended Corequisite(s):**

**Required****Prerequisite(s) /****Corequisite(s)****(Updates only):**

Any two courses from the following list: GEOL 101 + GEOL 103, GEOL 102 + GEOL 104, BIOL 103, BIOL 102, BIOL 213, BIOL 300, or the permission of the instructor.

**Registrar's Office Use Only - Required Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):**

And/Or	(	Course/Test Code	Min Grade/Score	Academic Level	)	Concurrency?

**Registration****Restrictions****(Updates only):****Registrar's Office Use Only - Registration Restrictions:**

Field(s) of Study:

Class(es):

Level(s):

Degree(s):

School(s):

**Catalog****Description:**

Vertebrate Paleontology explores the evolution of vertebrates from the early Paleozoic to Recent. The course will cover the systematics, anatomy, paleogeography, and ecology of extinct vertebrates. Discussions will include fishes, early tetrapods & amniotes, dinosaurs, birds and mammals. Lab portion includes paleontology techniques, analysis, and study of fossil specimens and casts. A weekend field trip is included.

**Justification:**

What: Changing recommended prerequisites to required prerequisites.

Why: Students have been coming in unprepared for topics covered within the course.

**Does this course cover material which crosses into another department?** No

**Learning Outcomes:**

**Will this course be scheduled as a cross-level cross listed section?**

**Attach Syllabus**

## Additional Attachments

### Specialized Course

#### Categories:

Mason Core

#### Select the Mason Core Requirement the course is proposing to fulfill:

#### Foundation

#### Courses:

#### Exploration

#### Courses:

### Integration

#### Courses:

Writing Intensive

## Writing Intensive

---

### Course must address all of the following Writing-Intensive learning outcomes:

Students will use informal or formal writing in ways that deepen their awareness of the field of study and its subject matter.

Students will compose one or more written genres specific to the field of study in order to communicate key ideas tailored to specific audiences and purposes; genres may be academic, public, or professional.

Students will draft and revise written works based on feedback they receive from instructors and peers, using strategies appropriate to the genre, audience, and purpose.

### Course must also satisfy Writing-Intensive course criteria.

This course will be taught at the 300-level or above.

This course will be offered in the major.

This WI course will be limited to 35 students.

Faculty will devote significant time to instruction on writing in the course and on how to complete assignments successfully.

Students will receive instructor feedback on their writing.

Students will be required to revise at least one substantive assignment in the course based on instructor feedback.

All of the writing assignments in the course count substantially toward the students' final grade in the course.

Students will individually write a minimum of 3500 words, divided among two or more

assignments. In the case of collaborative assignments, students will demonstrate that they have individually written at least 3000 words of the collaborative work.

**I affirm I have attached the required documents using the syllabus and attachment buttons provided above.**

The WI course planner

A syllabus with WI syllabus statement and WI outcomes identified

Descriptions/instructions of all major writing assignments (could be included with the syllabus)

A course schedule with instructional activities related to writing identified (could be included with the syllabus)

**Additional  
Comments:**

~~The Writing Intensive category in the CIM form was moved from a stand-alone specialized designation into the Integration portion of Mason Core. This course proposal edit is not a change to the existing course designation, it is just an update to the CIM course record to account for the form change. This edit has been admin saved.~~

**Reviewer  
Comments**

Key: 7230