

Department of geological & environmental sciences

Introduction to Paleontology 206-1-1121

## COURSE MATERIALS



*Photo: Norman Ross of the division of Paleontology, National Museum, preparing the skeleton of a baby dinosaur for exhibition. Copyright © 2003-2008 by Calvin & Rosanna Hamilton*

**Lecturer:** Dr. Sigal Abramovich ([sigalabr@bgu.ac.il](mailto:sigalabr@bgu.ac.il))

### Grading:

Course examination on theoretical material of lectures

Final exam 100%

### Lecture topics:

1. Introduction; Preservation and the fossil record
2. Fossilization and skeletal mineralogy
3. Description of fossil.
4. Species and Speciation.
4. Principles of classification and systematic.
5. Evolution; Historical and modern perspectives.
6. Evolution: processes and mechanisms.
7. Extinctions: Bad genes or bad luck?
8. The origin of life and earth's earliest life forms.
9. Late Precambrian and basal Paleozoic events; the Cambrian explosion.
10. Paleozoic: Leaving the water; colonization of land and air.
11. Mesozoic: The age of the dinosaurs.
12. Cenozoic: The age of the mammals.

## Course Bibliography

1. Prothero, D.R. 2013. Bringing Fossils to life-and Introduction to Paleobiology. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Columbia University Press, New York

Useful www links: <http://www.palaeos.com/Palaeo/default.htm>

Tree of life web project: <http://tolweb.org/tree/>