

BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV
FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES



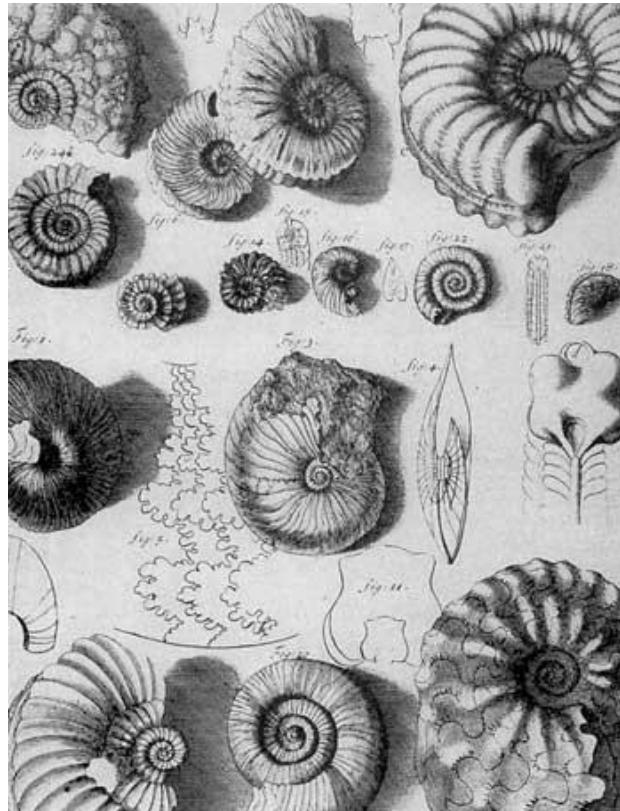
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Introduction to fossils

206-1-1123

Seventeenth century illustration of ammonoid fossils drawn by Robert Hooke

(By courtesy of <http://fossils.edwardtbabinski.us/>)



Lecturer: Dr. Sigal Abramovich (sigalabr@bgu.ac.il)

Grading:

Identification of fossils: 6 quizzes during semester=40% and final lab exam=60%

Requirements:

Pre-sessions assignment will be handled to and should be prepared before common sessions (not graded). These assignments include list of terms and concepts that are designed to prepare the student for the sessions.

Attendance with relevant course material (printed/photo copied) is required in all sessions.

*Course material can be downloaded from the **HighLearn Server** (<http://hl2.bgu.ac.il/NewLoginFrames.as>).

*Students are advised to follow weekly updates on the course website and stay alert to any changes in class schedule.

Lecture topics:

Recognition of the major fossil groups, with emphasis on common invertebrate marine fossils of Israel. Identification of approximately 100 fossils is required. Sessions will be as followed:

1. Foraminifera. Practical session in Room -122
2. Other microfossils (Nannoplankton, Diatoms, Radiolarians, Conodonts and Ostracods, and Dinoflagellates). Further practical session on foraminifera in Room -122
3. Poriferans and Cnidarians+ 1st quiz on Foraminifera and other microfossils. Practical session in Room 328
4. Bryozoans and Brachiopods + 2nd quiz on Poriferans and Cnidarians. Practical session in Room 328
5. Introduction to Molluscs + 3rd quiz on Bryozoans and Brachiopods. Practical session in Room 328
6. Bivalves. Practical session in Room 328
7. Gastropods+ 4th quiz on bivalves. Practical session in Room 328
8. Cephalopods+ 5th quiz on gastropods. Practical session in Room 328
9. Echinoderms, Trilobites, Graptolites and trace fossils+ 6th quiz on cephalopods. No practical session

Practical session will follow common session. Quizzes will be held at the beginning of common session.

Course Bibliography

1. Clarkson, E.N.K. 1998. Invertebrate Paleontology and Evolution. 4th ed., Blackwell Pub. Oxford, UK.
2. Prothero, D.R. 2004. Bringing Fossils to life-and Introduction to Paleobiology. 2nd ed., McGraw-Hill, Boston.

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

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