

The Final Examination in Geology 100 (History of Life)

Scheduled for December 12 (Tuesday), 9:00 a.m. – Noon.
(Last names beginning with A-H in Room 205; I-Z in Room 216)

1. The test will be six pages long, which is the same length as each of your hour examinations. You will nevertheless have the full three hours to complete it. (It won't take you that long.)
2. The first half of the final exam will be regular test questions covering the lecture material since the second test.
3. The second half of the test will be general thematic questions about the history of life that you answer with your own observations from **all** the course material. For example, there could be a question asking you to compare and contrast mass extinctions. Another could be assessing the role of atmospheric oxygen in life's history. You could be asked to describe an important evolutionary innovation, or an adaptive radiation, or the scientific value of homologous structures, *etc.* The questions will be designed for you to choose which material from the entire semester would best illustrate your points.
4. We approached most of our material taxonomically (by groups of organisms), so looking at chronological and geological summaries of the History of Life will help place them all in context. I suggest doing this by reviewing the Geological Timescale and noting what evolutionary events occurred during which periods. (In other words, make a timeline.)
5. The course evaluation forms will be distributed during the last week of classes.
6. The spelling rules for the final exam: Era, period and epoch names must be capitalized and spelled correctly; other words may be spelled phonetically. (This has always been our rule.)
New rule: Any word printed on the test itself must be spelled correctly if used in any answer. (How easy is that?)
7. I sometimes repeat final examination questions, so there will not be a sample test.
8. The History of Life final examination will only be given as scheduled. You may petition the Dean for Curriculum and Academic Engagement for an exception, but I won't support it unless your reason is very good. If you miss the test, you receive a zero.
9. We will have a review session during the last week of classes (December 6, 3:30-4:30 pm). You can always make appointments with me to ask any questions you have about the material. No questions will be answered in the 24 hours before the test. (The Cone of Silence descends!)
10. Good luck!