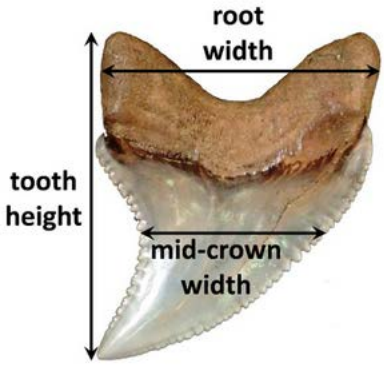

Biology of Extinct Animals Laboratory (BSCI 393)

Spring Semester, 2018

Monday, 2:00 - 2:50 PM, PLS 1119

BSCI 393 is a companion laboratory to Biology of Extinct Animals (BSCI 392). The course offers students the opportunity to reconstruct the life styles of extinct animals from their fossil remains. Throughout the semester, students will use the methodologies available to paleobiologists to more fully understand both extinct animals and the techniques used to study them. The course consists of weekly discussions on basic information and data collected during laboratory exercises.

Staff

Dr. Bretton Kent (PLS 3142; bkent@umd.edu); appointments scheduled **online**.

Grading

Grades in the course will be determined by nine laboratory exercises during the term, a final practical examination and an oral presentation of term projects. The nine exercises are each worth 10 points and are based on group submissions of work completed during the exercises.

The final practical will contain both illustrations of extinct animals and data from extant and extinct animals from which you will be required to make paleobiological inferences. The practical also includes questions about methodologies, inferences and reconstructions. The practical is comprehensive and is worth 100 points.

During the course of the semester you will also be working in your lab groups on reconstruction the life history attributes of a local fossil vertebrate. At the end of the semester, each group will provide an oral presentation (i.e., Powerpoint) of their results to the class. The oral presentation is worth 50 points.

The point total for the entire course is 240 points.

Grades are assigned on a standard 10% scale (i.e., 90% = A, 80% = B, etc.). Grades for each practical are curved (if necessary) to adjust scores to fit this scale. Plus/minus grading will applied as appropriate.

Academic Policies

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Definitions of academic dishonesty follow:

- CHEATING: intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise.
- FABRICATION: intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- FACILITATION: intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of the Code of Academic Integrity.
- PLAGIARISM: intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

YOU WILL BE ASKED to write and sign the University Honor Pledge on all examinations. The pledge reads as follows: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination." If you have further questions, please see the link below on Undergraduate Course Related Policies.

Religious Observances: In accordance with University Policy, no examination will be held on a major religious holiday; see the **list of these holidays**. We realize that not all holidays are listed here. If you need to be absent for a religious observance on a day when an exam is being held you must inform us in advance and we will work with you to resolve the problem as best we can.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities: The Disability Support Service (a division of the Counseling Center) stands ready to assist faculty in determining and implementing appropriate academic recommendations. DSS will work closely with both faculty and students. You may contact the office at 314-7682. A booklet, *Reasonable Accommodations*, is also available to assist you in understanding this issue. Students registered with DSS will be given every accommodation they deserve (as documented via DSS). However, they will take the

examination in a classroom near the lecture hall so the course staff can answer questions that may arise during the test. Examinations will NOT be administered at the DSS.

The University has a larger set of policies covering undergraduate courses that are too extensive to be covered here. But the following links are useful if you have questions:

Undergraduate Course Related Policies

Conduct of Undergraduate Courses and Student Grievances

Field Trip

There will be a Saturday trip to collect fossils on **17 February** (make-up date of **3 March**).

We will meet at Brownie's Beach (aka Bayfront Park), just south of Chesapeake Beach, MD and will collect for about 3 hours. Directions under the 'Field Trip' link on the course homepage. This trip is optional and will have no direct effect on grades. However, since we have numerous collecting sites within a few hours of campus, the trip is an excellent opportunity to learn some basic paleobiological field techniques.

Laboratory Schedule

Due Dates	Lab	Laboratory Exercise (click on title to access)
29 Jan.	---	Course Overview
5 Feb.	1	Body Size Relationships
12 Feb.	2	Life History Attributes of Benthic Invertebrates
19 Feb.	3	Seasonal Mortality of Benthic Invertebrates
26 Feb	4	Analysis of Borehole Trace Fossils
5 Mar.	---	**Discussion (Benthic Invertebrate Paleobiology)**
12 Mar.	5	Representative Sampling of Shark Tooth Communities
19 Mar.	---	**SPRING BREAK**
26 Mar.	6	Shark Tooth Morphology & Breakage Patterns
2 Apr.	7	Archaeocete Tooth Morphology
9 Apr.	8	Paleobiology of Sabertooth Cats
16 Apr.	---	**Discussion (Vertebrate Paleobiology)**
23 Apr.	9	Body Form & Relative Drag in Trilobites
30 Apr.	---	**Final practical (comprehensive)**
7 May	---	**Term Project**