

Chapman University

University Honors Program Course

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University Honors Program: HON 319 **Dinosaurs: In Science and Media**

When & Where

Syllabus - Fall 2025 Tu & Th 1:00 - 2:15, Doti Hall 105

Course Description: Prerequisite: acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor. This course will address the topic of dinosaurs from the perspectives of science and media. The scientific perspective will include how dinosaur remains are found, studied, and interpreted while the media perspective will focus on how dinosaurs are depicted in media as well as how dinosaur science was integrated into the Jurassic Park franchise movies. Students will write an article and a short script. 3 credits.

Instructor: Jack Horner, Professor, Presidential Fellow, Honors Program

jhorner@chapman.edu

609-558-6589

Office Hours: By appointment.

Honors Program Coordinator, Ashley Cosgrove (714) 744-7646 cosgrove@chapman.edu

GE Natural Science Inquiry Learning Outcome:

Students engage in scientific investigation to explore the knowledge produced by scientific processes.

Course Learning Objectives:

- * Apply the scientific method to analyze dinosaur discoveries as presented in scientific and popular media.
- * Learn the difference between scientific theory and popular opinion.
- * Evaluate the science interpreted by various scientific arguments based on physical evidence.

Honors Program Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing a course in the University Honors Program students will have:

1. Obtained a starting point for integrative exploration of the development of cultures and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives;
2. Sharpened their ability to critically analyze and synthesize a broad range of knowledge through the study of primary texts and through engagement in active learning with fellow students, faculty, and texts (broadly understood);
3. Understood how to apply more integrative and interdisciplinary forms of understanding in the advancement of knowledge and in addressing complex challenges shaping the world; Developed effective communication skills, specifically in the areas of written and oral exposition and analysis.

Textbooks:

Recommended but not mandatory:

Pim, K., Dinosaurs, 2019, The Grand Tour. The Experiment, LLC, New York, pp. 352.

Crichton, M., 1990, Jurassic Park, Ballantine Books, New York (2015)

Grading:		Points:
Midterm Exam –	Paper	100
Final Exam –	Script-	200
Active and appropriate participation (class attendance; focused and meaningful involvement in class activities)		<u>200</u>
TOTAL POINTS		500

400 points are required for a “P” grade

• All students are encouraged to attend every class meeting. Poor attendance will affect your grade. Absences exceeding 20% normally result in the student receiving a grade of “NP” unless he/she withdraws officially (2 “tardies” constitute an absence). Active and appropriate participation (class attendance; focused and meaningful involvement in class activities). Each student is required to take an active part in class discussions.

• **All cell phones must be off and put out of reach during class time. Side chatting or cell phone use in class is unacceptable,** and offenders will be asked to leave and marked absent.

• **There will be no make-up exams! Documentation is required for all class conflicts such as athletic team travel, deaths in the family, hospitalization, etc.**

• Assignments must be submitted in on time through Blackboard (click on “Assignments” and follow the instructions, make sure you click on “submit” as your last step). Students will be penalized 20% for handing an assignment in late on the day it is due and another 40% for each day the assignment is late thereafter.

Before submitting assignments make sure they are proofed & edited.

• In addition to the readings and lectures listed in the course outline, students may be responsible for other assignments given in class. Also, some assignments, such as attending a film or guest speaker, may require a time commitment other than the scheduled class period.

Please note that this course requires close attention, and active participation. Please be aware that the course outline is just a guide. We may vary the contents and the time projections, depending on unexpected events, speakers, etc. and the needs of the class.

Chapman University’s Academic Integrity Policy:

Chapman University is a community of scholars that emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work and academic dishonesty of any kind will be subject to sanction by the instructor/administrator and referral to the university Academic Integrity Committee, which may impose additional sanctions including expulsion. Please see the full description of Chapman University's

policy on Academic Integrity at https://www.chapman.edu/academics/academic-integrity/_files/academic-integrity-policy.pdf

Chapman University's Students with Disabilities Policy

“In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office. If you will need to utilize your approved accommodations in this class, please follow the proper notification procedure for informing your professor(s). This notification process must occur more than a week before any accommodation can be utilized. Please contact Disability Services at (714) 516–4520 or visit www.chapman.edu/students/student-health-services/disability-services if you have questions regarding this procedure or for information or to make an appointment to discuss and/or request potential accommodations based on documentation of your disability. Once formal approval of your need for an accommodation has been granted, you are encouraged to talk with your professor(s) about your accommodation options. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.”

Chapman University's Equity and Diversity Policy

Chapman University is committed to ensuring equality and valuing diversity. Students and professors are reminded to show respect at all times as outlined in [Chapman's Harassment and Discrimination Policy](#). Any violations of this policy should be discussed with the professor, the [Dean of Students](#) and/or otherwise reported in accordance with this policy.

Student Support at Chapman University. Over the course of the semester, you may experience a range of challenges that interfere with your learning, such as problems with friend, family, and or significant other relationships; substance use; concerns about personal adequacy; feeling overwhelmed; or feeling sad or anxious without knowing why. These mental health concerns or stressful events may diminish your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. You can learn more about the resources available through Chapman University's Student Psychological Counseling Services here: <https://www.chapman.edu/students/health-and-safety/psychological-counseling/>

Fostering a community of care that supports the success of students is essential to the values of Chapman University. Occasionally, you may come across a student whose personal behavior concerns or worries you, either for the student's well-being or yours. In these instances, you are encouraged to contact the Chapman University Student Concern Intervention Team who can respond to these concerns and offer assistance: <https://www.chapman.edu/students/health-and-safety/student-concern/index.aspx>. While it is preferred that you include your contact information so this team can follow up with you, you can submit a report anonymously. 24-hour emergency help is also available through Public Safety at 714-997-6763.

Topics to be covered (Syllabus) based on a two 75 minute class per week schedule.

Part 1 Dinosaurs in Science

Aug. 26 Who are you and who am I? What was & is a dinosaur?

Aug. 28 Cladistics, Primitive vs derived characters (LAB)

Sep. 2 Dinosaur Origins & Biogeography

Sep. 4 Geology & how we find dinosaurs and other extinct organisms (LAB)

Sep. 9 What dinosaurs ate.

Sep. 11 Dinosaur Social Behavior I

Sep. 16 Dinosaur Social Behavior II

Sep. 18 Dinosaur Coloration

Sep. 23 Dinosaur Accoutrements.

Sep. 25 Dinosaur Physiology.

Sep. 30 Dinosaur Extinction

Oct. 2 The “Real” Jurassic Park

Oct. 7 Dinosaur Controversies I Student led conversation

Oct. 9 Dinosaur Controversies II Student led conversation

Oct. 14 Dinosaur Controversies III Student led conversation

Oct. 21 Mongolia and commercial collecting

Oct. 23 Dinosaur paleontology at Chapman (Felicity)

Part II. Dinosaurs in the Media

Oct. 28 Dinosaurs in the News

Oct. 30 Field Trip to the DinoLab

Nov. 4 DISCUSSION OF PAPERS : MIDTERM PAPER - A paper written as a magazine article for the public

Nov. 6 Screenwriting Class (Vince Boberski)

Nov. 11 Jurassic Park, the book and the movie. Student led, class discussion.

Nov. 13 Dinosaurs in the movies (other than JP & JW). Student led, class discussion.

Nov. 18 Dinosaur Consumer Products. Student led, class discussion.

Nov. 20 Dinosaur documentaries. Student led, class discussion.

Nov 24 - 28 Fall Recess

Dec 2 Final Presentations

Dec 4 Final Presentations

Dec. 10 : Final Presentations