

## Course Number and Title

### Special Topics: Natural History Exhibits Development

GLY 6932 | Section 049H

ZOO 6927 | Section 6744

GLY 4930 | Section 049H

\*\*\*Instructor's permission is required

Fall, 2011 Semester (8/22 - 12/7, 2011)

## Catalog Description

In this seminar-format class students will learn how to design, develop, and evaluate a small multimedia natural history exhibit related to the content of the Panama PIRE project (see below). While this course will focus on the content of the Panama PIRE (geology, paleontology, biodiversity), the theoretical framework and best practices learned will be generally applicable to other exhibits with STEM content.

**Credit Hours**      3

**Class size limit**    12

## Pre-requisites and Co-requisites

- 3.0 GPA
- Course enrollment will be by application and instructors permission

## Course Objectives

By the end of the course, the student will have done the following:

- Learned the theory and best practices of natural museum exhibit design
- Presented one or more classes on a specific topic of their own interest related to the course content
- Participated in a group class project

## Instructor Information

Name: Bruce J. MacFadden  
Office location: 218 Dickinson Hall  
Telephone: 273-1937  
E-mail address: [bmacfadd@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:bmacfadd@flmnh.ufl.edu)  
Web site: See <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/panama-pire/>  
Office hours: Wednesdays, Fridays, 3 to 4 pm, or by appointment (preferred)

(Note: This course will also have guest presenters)

## Teaching Assistant Information (if applicable): TBD

### Course Meeting Time(s)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 9th and 10th period (4:05 to 6:00 pm); In addition to the UF classroom, this course will be delivered via polycom (videoteleconferencing) to Panama.

### Course Meeting Location(s), and dates (no days with no class)

- Monday, August 22 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Wednesday, August 24 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Monday, August 29 | Carr 222 | Polycom
- Wednesday, August 31 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- *Monday, September 5 / NO CLASS / Labor Day*
- Wednesday, September 7 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Monday, September 19 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Wednesday, September 21 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Monday, September 26 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Wednesday, September 28 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Monday, October 3 | Carr 222 | Polycom
- Wednesday, October 5 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Monday, October 17 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Wednesday, October 19 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Monday, October 24 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Wednesday, October 26 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Monday, October 31 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Wednesday, November 2 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Monday, November 7 | Carr 222 | Polycom
- Wednesday, November 9 | 265 Williamson Hall | SKYPE
- Monday, November 14 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Wednesday, November 16 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Monday, November 21 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Wednesday, November 23 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Monday, November 28 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Wednesday, November 30 | 230 Dickinson Hall | Polycom
- Monday, December 5 | Carr 222 | Polycom
- Wednesday, December 7 | 265 Williamson Hall | SKYPE

### Course Website

Information about the course will be posted on the PIRE PCP website at:  
<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/panama-pire/fall2011.htm>

### Required Materials

- **Textbook or Other Readings**

No textbook; assigned readings will be assigned mostly from primary research literature.

- **Software**

Not applicable

## **Recommended Materials (none applicable)**

**Textbooks or Other Readings**

**Software**

**Other Materials**

## **Course Outline** (topics covered by week or by class period)

Disclaimer: The course outline and content will evolve, and become further refined during the beginning of the semester depending upon students' interest.

- Week 1: Course introduction
- Week 2: How people learn in museums
- Week 3: Museum exhibit best practices
- Week 4: NO CLASS: Optional museum trip in Panama
- Week 5: Class project development—brainstorming and project outline
- Week 6: Museum evaluation, IRB protocol
- Week 7: Class project development—brainstorming and project outline
- Week 8: NO CLASS
- Week 9: Student presentations
- Week 10: Student presentations
- Week 11: Class project development—midway progress and implementation update
- Week 12: Student presentations
- Week 13: Student presentations
- Week 14: Student presentations
- Week 15: Student presentations
- Week 16: Course wrap-up and final class project presentation(s)

## **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is required and will be counted towards part of the grade in the course.

## **Conduct in Class**

- Please be courteous and do not talk during lecture. This can be distracting to other students and the instructor.
- Only approved electronic devices may be used in class. Approved electronic devices are laptop computers (when used to take notes or otherwise participate in classroom activities) and voice recording devices. Unapproved electronic devices include cell phones, video recorders, digital cameras and MP3 players.

## **Grading, will be based on:**

1. Attendance and participation in class activities and discussions (30%)
2. Written reports and discussion questions of assigned readings (40%)
3. Involvement in, and presentation of, a capstone semester-long project involving either research and/or educational outreach (30%)

(There are no exams during this course)

## Grading Scale

Point Range (%)	Letter Grade	GPA equivalent
≥ 90.00	A	4.0
86.7 – 89.9	A-	3.67
83.3 – 86.6	B+	3.33
80.0 – 83.2	B	3.0
76.7 – 79.9	B-	2.67
73.3 – 76.6	C+	2.33
70.0 – 73.2	C	2.0
66.7 – 69.9	C-	1.67
63.3 – 66.6	D+	1.33
60.0 – 36.2	D	1.0
56.7 – 59.9	D-	0.67
< 56.7	E	0

Note that a “C-“ will not be a qualifying grade for critical tracking courses. In order to graduate, students must have an overall GPA and an upper-division GPA of 2.0 or better (C or better).

Note: a C- average is equivalent to a GPA of 1.67, and therefore, it does not satisfy this graduation requirement. For more information on grades and grading policies, please visit: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>”

## Grade Curve Policy

Grades will not be calibrated/adjusted on a curve

## Make-up Exam Policy

There are no exams during this course.

## UF Counseling Services

- Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. The resources include:
  - UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd, 392-1575, psychological and psychiatric services.
  - Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career and job search services.
- Many students experience test anxiety and other stress related problems. “A Self Help Guide for Students” is available through the Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575) and at their web site: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/>.

## Honesty Policy

- All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and

understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

- In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: “*On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.*”
- If you witness any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify the instructor or contact the Student Honor Court (392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (392-6999). For additional information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the University of Florida Academic Honesty Guidelines at:  
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html>.

### **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

- Students who will require a classroom accommodation for a disability must contact the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources, in Peabody 202 (phone: 352-392-1261). Please see the University of Florida Disability Resources website for more information at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/services/>.
- It is the policy of the University of Florida that the student, not the instructor, is responsible for arranging accommodations when needed. Once notification is complete, the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources will work with the instructor to accommodate the student.

### **Software Use**

All faculty, staff and student of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.