This course will focus on the analysis of pollen grains and other organic microfossils (such as fern spores, pine stomata, and charcoal fragments) in sediments as proxy indicators of past vegetation, climate, and disturbance regimes. The format will consist of a combination of lectures, laboratory work, readings, discussions, presentations, and field experiences. We will meet Wednesdays from 2:30–5:00 p.m. in 401 Burchfiel Geography Building, and at selected other times and places to be arranged.

The course is designed to serve the needs of graduate students in geography, anthropology, earth and planetary sciences, and ecology, and will include some opportunity for independent research related to ongoing or planned thesis/dissertation work. Advanced undergraduates in these and related fields may also find the course interesting and useful and are welcome with the permission of the instructor. Please contact the instructor, Dr. Sally Horn (shorn@utk.edu), if you have questions.