Geology and Paleoecology of Caribbean Reefs in a Mixed Siliciclastic-Carbonate Setting: Miocene-Pliocene, Cibao Valley, Dominican Republic

Classroom and field study of the tectonics and stratigraphic setting that promoted prolific reef development among siliciclastic-rich sediments in one of the classic paleontology field localities. We will explore and examine the causes and controls that enabled fossil reef systems to initiate and thrive under diverse environmental conditions leading up to a major extinction event of Caribbean corals. This field course will prepare students to evaluate a complete suite of sedimentary and stratigraphic features, ranging from coral and mollusc paleoecology to a regional sequence stratigraphic interpretation of the mixed system deposits. Pre-trip classes and paper will prepare the students for the field excursion. Post-trip summary and discussion will conclude the course.