

Biogeography
Geography 310/504
Three credits
Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45 pm
TLC 149

I. Course Information

In addition to this syllabus, the main source of course information is the course web site (www.uidaho.edu/~jhicke/courses/biogeog_fall08). The course web site on UI's Blackboard will be used to distribute additional readings and homeworks.

Instructor

Dr. Jeffrey Hicke
McClure Hall 305D
885-6240
jhicke@uidaho.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2-3 pm; Fridays, 10-11 am

Readings

Text: MacDonald, Glen. 2003. *Biogeography: Introduction to Space, Time and Life*. John Wiley and Sons. On reserve at the UI library.

Supplemental text: Lomolino, M. V., B. R. Riddle, and J. H. Brown. 2006. *Biogeography*. Sinauer and Associates, Inc. Third Edition. On reserve at the UI library.

Additional outside readings will be assigned and distributed through Blackboard course site.

I will generally follow the MacDonald book, but will supplement with concepts and examples drawn from a number of sources. Please come to class having already read the assignments. You will be responsible for material covered in class.

Goals

Biogeography is the study of geographic patterns of organisms and the controlling mechanisms that drive these patterns. Biogeographers are also interested in mapping other biological phenomena, such as genes or biomes. Abiotic (climate, soils, disturbance), biotic (dispersal, invasion, competition), and historical (plate tectonics, evolution, climate change) factors are responsible for these patterns.

Our goals in this class are to:

- 1) define biogeographical terminology;
- 2) identify the major physical, biological, and historical controls on plant and animal species distributions;
- 2) understand general patterns of communities and biomes across the Earth; and
- 4) quantify the current and future threats to species.

Prerequisites: Physical geography; ecology; environmental science; or permission of instructor

II. Tentative schedule (subject to change based on progress)

Weeks	Topics	Readings	Notes
1-4	Introduction, Abiotic and biotic drivers	Chapters 1-4	
5-6	Disturbance, Communities/Biomes	Chapters 5-6	Dr. Hicke gone Sept 30 (Dr. Penny Morgan will guest lecture), Oct 2 (Arjan Meddens will guest lecture)
7-12	Effects of time: Geology, climate change, dispersal, evolution, extinction	Chapters 7-12	Midterm October 14 (Dr. Hicke gone)
13-15	Theory and practice: Biogeographic distributions, biodiversity	Chapters 13-15	Final: Monday, December 15, 12:30-2:30 pm

III. Grading

Grades will be assigned based on the following:

Homework

a. Reading questions	5%
b. Longer sets	20%
Midterm	25%
Project	25%
Final exam	25%

Homework:

- To ensure you've done the reading prior to class and to get you thinking about the topic, each Tuesday you will turn in three questions related to the reading for that week. Questions should be about something that intrigued you about that reading. To allow for sickness, you can miss one set of questions without penalty. Questions will be graded on a 'plus' (3 points), 'minus' (1 point), or 'missing' (0 points).
- There will be roughly 7 homeworks, one every other week, that give you experience with important biogeographical concepts. Homework is due at the beginning of class.

Project: For the class project, you will select a topic you are interested in within biogeography, investigate the topic, give a presentation, and write a paper. You will also evaluate the presentations of the other students. See additional information provided separately.

Graduate students

For graduate credit, you will be graded separately, have additional problems on homeworks and exams, and develop a more extensive class project. In addition, you will prepare and deliver a lecture to the class on a topic of your choice. Please see me the first week of class to discuss options.

IV. Course policies

Missed exams/late assignments

I allow makeup exams in only the most extreme situations (e.g., dire sickness), and I require written verification in any situation (e.g., note from doctor). Early exams will only be accommodated for "once in a lifetime"

events, and requests must be made four weeks in advance. Late assignments will have 33% of the points deducted for each day late (i.e., homework turned in after class will have 33% of the points deducted; the next day, 66% of the points deducted; the following and subsequent days, 100% of the points deducted).

Academic dishonesty

Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Your work must be your own. Do not copy or plagiarize the work of others. If you are caught, you will receive no credit for that work, whether it is a homework assignment or an exam. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, you could be expelled from the university. I encourage you to discuss homeworks and projects, but you must do your own work. The University of Idaho's policy on cheating is described in Article II of the UI Student Handbook or at <http://www.students.uidaho.edu/default.aspx?pid=56186>.

Additional information

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodation(s) needed for the course. Late notification may mean that requested accommodations might not be available. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Support Services located in the Idaho Commons Building, Room 333. Disability Support services can be contacted at 885-7200, email at dss@uidaho.edu, and via their website at www.access.uidaho.edu or www.webs.uidaho.edu/aap.