

**Biogeography
Geography 410
Three credits
T/Th 12:30-1:45 pm
ENG/PHYS 205**

I. Course Information

In addition to this syllabus, the main source of information is the course BbLearn web site.

Instructor

Dr. Jeffrey Hicke

McClure Hall 307C

208-885-6240

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Office Hours: Monday, 1-2 pm; Thursday, 2-3 pm; or by appointment

Readings

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

Additional outside readings may be assigned and distributed via email or the course BbLearn web site.

I will generally follow the MacDonald book, but will supplement with concepts and examples drawn from a number of sources.

Overview

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 biomes. Abiotic (climate, soils, disturbance), biotic (dispersal, invasion, competition), and historical (plate tectonics, evolution, climate change) factors are responsible for these patterns. Biogeography is also concerned with threats to species, such as habitat loss, climate change, and introduction of non-native invasive species.

Course goals and student learning objectives: At the end of the course, students will be able to

- 1) define biogeographical terminology;
- 2) identify and describe the major physical, biological, and historical controls on plant and animal species distributions;
- 2) understand and map the general patterns of communities and biomes across the Earth;
- 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
1-3	Introduction, basics of biology, environment	Chapters 1-2
4-6	Abiotic and biotic drivers	Chapters 3-4
<i>Thursday, February 15</i>	<i>Exam 1</i>	
7-8	Disturbance, communities/biomes	Chapters 5-6
9-12	Geology, climate, dispersal	Chapters 7-8
<i>Thursday, March 29</i>	<i>Exam 2</i>	
13	Evolution, extinction	Chapters 9, 12
14	Biogeography subdivisions and distributions	Chapter 10, 13
15-16	Biodiversity, conservation	Chapters 14-15
17	Student poster presentations; <i>meet in a different classroom, which will be announced</i>	
<i>Friday, May 11, 10 am-12 pm</i>	<i>Final exam</i>	

III. Grading

Grades will be assigned based on the following:

Homework	20%
Project	20%
Midterm 1	18%
Midterm 2	18%
Final exam	20%
Participation/effort	4%

Homework: There will be several homework assignments (4-6) to give you experience with important concepts. See web site for assignments and due dates. Late assignments will have one letter grade (10%) of the points deducted for each day late. If you have questions about an assignment, please contact me.

Project: For the class project, you will select a topic you are interested in within biogeography, investigate the topic, create an electronic poster, and present your poster the final week of classes. You will also evaluate the presentations of the other students. See additional information provided separately.

Exams: Midterm 2 is not cumulative; the final is cumulative. You are responsible for all material presented in class and on homework assignments.

Participation/effort will be based on attending class; participating in discussion by asking/answering questions; turning in homework and project assignments on time; turning in extra credit assignments; etc.

Grades will be assigned based on a curve. Splits among grades will be determined at the end of the semester, but I expect that that top 15-20% will receive As, and between 1/3 and 1/2 of the class will get As and Bs.

Strategies for doing well in this course:

1. Before class, read the chapter or other material, print out course notes outline and PPT slides, then mark up/annotate during class
2. Attend class; take notes following instructor's outline
3. Study in an organized way (review notes, identify most important concepts)
4. Complete all homework assignments (will help with exams)
5. Take advantage of any extra credit opportunities
6. Visit me with any questions

IV. Course policies

Classes and attendance

You are responsible for attending class and knowing the due dates for all assignments, papers, and presentations. I will be emailing the class regularly; please ensure you check your uidaho email account.

Please keep your cell phone put away (off your desk and lap) while in class. Laptops are permitted for note-taking only. If you find yourself distracted by others' use of phones or laptops, please let me know.

Civility

Please be respectful of others in the classroom. Please do not talk or whisper in class as this is distracting to me and other students. Use appropriate language; allow others to talk; be courteous and civil.

Exams/late assignments

You are welcome to ask for a re-grade of an exam or homework assignment. Please do so within one week of the exam's or assignment's due date.

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 (subject to instructor approval), and requests must be made four weeks in advance.

Academic honesty

Academic honesty is covered in the Article II of UI Student Code of Conduct (<http://www.uidaho.edu/DOS/judicialaffairs/studentcodeofconduct>). 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, an exam, or a project, and you will be referred to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. Depending on the seriousness of the plagiarism or cheating offense, you could be expelled from the university.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented temporary or permanent disabilities. All accommodations must be approved through the Center for Disability Access and Resources located in the Bruce M. Pitman Center, Suite 127 in order to notify your instructor(s) as soon as possible regarding accommodation(s) needed for the course.

Phone: 208-885-6307, email: cdar@uidaho.edu, website: www.uidaho.edu/current-students/cdar

Concealed Carry of Firearms (recommended text from UI)

The University of Idaho bans firearms from its property with only limited exceptions. One exception applies to persons who hold a valid Idaho enhanced concealed carry license, provided those firearms remain concealed at all times. If an enhanced concealed carry license holder’s firearm is displayed, other than in necessary self-defense, it is a violation of University policy. Please contact local law enforcement (call 911) to report firearms on University property.