

Syllabus BIOL 4304 – BIOGEOGRAPHY

Fall 2025

Instructor:

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Office Hours: T R 9:30-11, or by appointment.

Course Description: Study of flora and fauna of the world and factors affecting their distribution.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

- 1) Describe and understand the factors and processes that influence the distribution of species and biological communities.
- 2) Examine, evaluate, and understand the current and prehistorical distribution of organisms, both plant and animal.
- 3) Synthesize, through writing, the importance of macroevolution and biogeographic processes in determining present day distribution and abundance patterns of organisms.

Required Texts:

Cox et al. 2016. Biogeography: an ecological and evolutionary approach, 9th edition. John Wiley & Sons. (Available for free, electronically through the library)

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated based on the following work:

Examinations. Two midterms and a final exam will be given. Exams are short answer/essay format. They are timed exams that must be completed in 50 minutes. The lowest exam will be dropped, so the 2 highest exams will be worth 80% of the grade (the final is not comprehensive). The remaining 20% of your grade will be based on attendance, and I will take attendance at random. In the event you wish to dispute an exam question, an essay outlining your argument must be submitted within one week of the exam being handed back to you. No make-up exams will be given, unless arranged ahead of time with a valid excuse (e.g., athletic tournament, hospitalization, etc.). I do not curve or round grades. Please note, this is a face-to-face class. I will not use Zoom unless required by University. My teaching style is not amenable to Zoom format.

We will follow a 10-point scale for grading:

90-100% = A, 80-89.99% = B, 70-79.99 = C, 60-69.00% = D, 0-59.99% = F

Academic Misconduct: Submitting plagiarized work to meet academic requirements including the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own; the unacknowledged word for word use of another person's ideas; and/or the falsification, fabrication, or dishonesty in reporting research results shall be grounds for charges of academic misconduct. **Any cheating or other type of academic misconduct will be reported to university administration and at minimum will result in automatic failure of the course.** Cell phone use during exams is strictly forbidden.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lecture Topics</u>
Aug 25	Introduction and History of Biogeography (Ch. 1)
Sept 1	No class Labor Day ; Distribution of Species & Communities (Ch. 2 & 3)
Sept 8	Distribution of Species & Communities (Ch. 2 & 3)
Sept 15	Patterns of Biodiversity (Ch. 4)
Sept 22	Exam 1 Sept. 22 ; Historical Processes (Ch. 5-7)
Sept 29	Historical Biogeography (Ch. 5-6, 8, 10-12)
Oct 6	Historical Biogeography (Ch. 5-6, 8, 10-12)
Oct 13	Historical Biogeography (Ch. 5-6, 8, 10-12)
Oct 20	Historical Biogeography (Ch. 5-6, 8, 10-12); Ex. 2 Oct 24
Oct 27	Island Biogeography (Ch. 7)
Nov 3	Marine Biogeography (Ch. 9)
Nov 10	Conservation Biogeography (Ch. 14)
Nov 17	Human Biogeography (Ch. 13)
Nov 24	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 1	Future of Biogeography (Ch. 14)

Important Dates:

Nov 3 - Final date for dropping with a W

Final Exam: Dec 10, 10:15-12:15