

**BIOGEOGRAPHY**  
**Syllabus**  
**28 February – 11 March 2011**

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The instructor reserves the right to make alterations to this syllabus, particularly the schedule, as the course proceeds. Such changes will be announced in class.

**Course Description:** Biogeography is the study of the distribution of ecosystems and organisms across global to microhabitat scales. The topic is multi- and interdisciplinary – covering subjects including synecology and autecology, evolution and paleontology, climatology, geology and geomorphology, and soil science – as a host of interacting processes determine species distribution and diversity.

**Course Topics**

- History of biogeography
- Biogeographical system
- Physical environment
- Geological/paleoclimatic earth history
- Distribution of single species and communities
- Dispersal and extinction
- Reconstructing biogeographical histories
- Island biogeography
- Continental biogeography
- Conservation biogeography

**Required text:** *Biogeography*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Lomolino, M.V., B.R. Riddle, and J.H. Brown. 2006. Sinauer. Sunderland, MA.

**Course Policies –**

**Absence:** Absence will result in a zero for all missed activities unless prior arrangements are made. Assignments that are missed due to excused absence must be made up as soon as possible after their scheduled time.

**Academic Integrity and Campus Community Behavior:** Failure to exercise academic integrity is a serious offense and evidence of cheating on any graded assignment of the class will result in a failing grade and expulsion from the course. A copy of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy can be found at <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html>.

**Grading:** Final letter grades will be based on numerical scores from

- Exercises (40%)
- Other assignments (e.g., Fieldtrip writeups, 10%)
- Quizzes (25%)
- Final Exam (15%)
- Overall class participation (10%)

Roughly, the following grading scheme will be used to assign letter grades: Scores > 90% = A, 80-89.9% = B, 70-79.9% = C, 60-69% = D, < 60% = F. These cut-offs represent maximum values; they can be altered at the discretion of the instructor. A '+' or '-' may be added to the score in borderline cases.

See also:

- Participation evaluation criteria – <http://culter.colorado.edu/~kittel/ParticptnCriteria.pdf>
- PowerPoint presentation tips – [http://culter.colorado.edu/~kittel/PPT\\_LayoutTips.ppt](http://culter.colorado.edu/~kittel/PPT_LayoutTips.ppt)
- Cheryl Vanier's Plagiarism presentation, exercise – [http://culter.colorado.edu/~kittel/Plagiarism\\_CVanier.pdf](http://culter.colorado.edu/~kittel/Plagiarism_CVanier.pdf)