

**Biogeography
Geography 410
Three credits
M/W/F 9:30-10:20 pm
BEL 205**

I. Course Information

In addition to this syllabus, the main source of course information is the course web site,
http://webpages.uidaho.edu/~jhicke/courses/biogeog_spr14/index.html.

Instructor

Dr. Jeffrey Hicke

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Office Hours: Mondays, 12-1; Thursdays, 12-1; 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.

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 via email.

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	
7-12	geology, climate change, dispersal, evolution, extinction	Chapters 7-12	Midterm Friday, March 7
13-15	theory and practice: biogeographic distributions, biodiversity; student presentations	Chapters 13-15	Final: Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 10 am-12 pm

III. Grading

Grades will be assigned based on the following:

Homework

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

Homework:

a. To motivate you to do the reading prior to class and to get you thinking about the topic, you will turn in three questions related to the newly assigned reading for that lecture (not all lectures have new reading; check schedule). Questions should be a) about something that intrigued you about that reading (better) or b) a question that could be on a quiz or exam (less better). To allow for sickness, you can miss one set of questions without penalty. One point will be given per question. Bring your questions to class (printed out).

b. There will be several homework sets to give you experience with important 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.

Class participation will be based on attendance, preparation, asking questions, answering questions.

IV. Course policies

Classes and attendance

You are responsible for reading the assigned reading before class, attending class, and participating in the discussion. You are also responsible for 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.

Civility

Please be respectful of others in the classroom. Use appropriate language; allow others to talk; be courteous and civil.

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). If you have questions about an assignment, please contact me.

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 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.