

**GEOGRAPHY 417
H(2-3) Area III****Biogeography and Natural Ecosystems****Instructor: Geoffrey Hay**

Office: ES 454

Office Hours: By appointment/email

Phone: 220-4768

Email: gihay@ucalgary.ca**Time table:** Lec 01, MW 11:00-11:50 SA119

Lab 01, F 11:00-14:00, SA119

Course Assistant:

Pablo Wainstein

Office: ES 356

Office Hours: By appointment/email

Phone: 220-3176

Email: pawainst@ucalgary.ca

Prerequisite:

Geography 313 or consent of the Department

Course Content: Biogeography is the study of living things in space and time. It is a multidisciplinary science that builds upon and incorporates components of biology, geography, geology, paleontology and ecology to provide answers to such basic questions as - why are there so many living creatures? Why are they distributed in the way that they are? Have they always occupied their current distribution patterns? Is the present activity of human beings affecting these patterns and, if so, what are the prospects for the future?

Major Topics: This course will cover both theoretical and fundamental topics including (but not limited to) the history of biogeography, patterns of biodiversity and distribution, communities and ecosystems, and island biogeography. The course will also include field and class based labs, guest lectures, and the identification of common and native plants and ecosystems. Emphasis will be placed on the completion and presentation of a major team project based on an Alberta National or Provincial Park of your choice. We will go on at least 2 field trips within the first month of class, so be prepared to sweat.

Text: required

- Cox, C. B., and P. D., Moore, 2005. Biogeography an Ecological and Evolutionary Approach, 7th Edition. Blackwell Publishing, p 428 [available at UofC book store].

Text: recommended

- Kananaskis Lakes Trail Map and Guide. 1:50, 000. Gem Trek Publishing [Price ≈ \$10.00*]
- Gadd, B., 2003. Handbook of the Canadian Rockies. Corax Press, p 831. [Price ≈ \$41.00*].
- Hallworth, B & C.C. Chinnappa, 1997. Plants of Kananaskis Country, 1997. University of Alberta Press, p 368.*

* See Instructor for details before purchasing - available at local book stores, i.e. chapters, MEC, etc

- Wilkinson, K., 1990. Trees and Shrubs of Alberta. A Habitat Field Guide. Lone Pine Publishing, p 191. [Price ≈ \$17.00*].
- Wilkinson, K., Wildflowers of Alberta. A guide to common wildflowers and other herbaceous plants. [Price ≈ \$23.00*].

Grading (weighted)

- *Lab Assignments (≈ 5% each)* = 15%
- *Midterm (in class - 50 mins)* = 15%
- *Group Project: presentation (25%), paper (25%)* = 50%
- ***Final Exam (2hrs - scheduled by the Registrar's Office)*** = **20%**

Grading System:

96-100	A+	77-80	B	59-61	C-
90-95	A	71-76	B-	55-58	D+
86-89	A-	65-70	C+	50-54	D
81-85	B+	62-64	C	0-49	F

For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor see Blackboard at:
<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

Wk	Date M/W	CONTENT	LABS/Field Trips	
1	Sept 11 Sept 13	- Course Outline & Organize Field Trips - Introduction to Biogeography (Ch. 1)	Sept 15-Lab 1: Plant ID: Dried plants	
2	Sept 18 Sept 20	- Common Plants of Alberta - Documentary (Birth of Rockies) & LIFEZONE + Plants of Alberta - cont	Sept 22-Lab2: Plant ID + GPS basics	Sept 23-Field 1: Mnt Indefatigable – Kananaskis
3	Sept 25 Sept 27	- History of Biogeography (Ch. 2) - History of Biogeography (Ch. 2)	Sept 29-Field 2: Edworthy Park – GPS, plant ID and Douglas fir trail.	
4	Oct 02 Oct 04	- Patterns of Biodiversity (Ch. 3) - Visit Greenhouse	Oct 06-Field 3: Edworthy Park – GPS, plant ID and Douglas fir trail.	
5	Oct 09 Oct 11	- Patterns of Biodiversity (Ch. 3) - Patterns of Distribution (Ch. 4)	Oct 13-Lab 4: Work on plant-ID project. - Hand in next class (10%)	
6	Oct 16 Oct 18	- Patterns of Distribution (Ch. 4) - Guest Lecture (McDermid – Grizzly)	Oct 20-Lab 3: Plant ID: Exam 5%	
7	Oct 23 Oct 25	- MIDTERM 15% (in class – 50 mins) - Communities and Ecosystems (Ch. 5)	- Group time	
8	Oct 30 Nov 01	- Communities and Ecosystems (Ch. 5) - Island Biogeography (Ch.7)	- Group time	
9	Nov 06 Nov 08	- Guest Lecture (Alexander – Van. Island wolves) - Living in the Past (Ch.8)	- Group time	
10	Nov 13 Nov 15	- READING DAYS (NO CLASS) - Foretelling the future (Ch. 15)	- Group time	
11	Nov 20 Nov 22	- Group Presentation – team 1 - Group Presentation – team 2	- Group time	
12	Nov 27 Nov 29	- Group Presentation – team 3 - Group Presentation – team 4	- Group time	
13	Dec 04 Dec 06	- Group Presentation – team 5 - Group Presentation – team 6	- Group time	
End Fall Session (Dec 07), Final Exams (Dec 10-19) Tentative Schedule – subject to change, depending on guest lectures.				

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Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are 1) presenting another student's work as your own 2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without proper referencing and 3) using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated in this course and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar.

Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- All assignments will be handles on Blackboard.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on Blackboard by password access. Grades will **not** be available at Geography's main office.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: suypaca@ucalgary.ca
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Campus Safewalk

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your Campus destination.