

GEOG 417 H (2-3) AREA III**Biogeography and Natural Ecosystems**

Timetable	Lec #01	TR	11-11.50	ES653	Catalogue #	2004
	Lab #01	TR	1400-15.15	ES342		

Instructor: Stuart Harris
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Office hours: 1300-1400
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TA (if applicable):
Office:
Office hours:
Phone:
e-mail:

Course Content

Introduction to Biogeography
Taxonomy
Development of the present distribution of Biota
The ecological hierarchy; Biomes
The ecosystem concept
The trophic hierarchy
Environmental controls of the distribution of the biota
Disturbances; plant succession
Dispersal, colonisation, invasion, evolution and speciation
Biodiversity and its controls; extinctions
Island biogeography
Introductions of exotic species
Modification by agriculture and forestry
Future changes and challenges

In the first group of labs, the students will be introduced to the common plants in the ecosystems around Calgary, as well as interpreting distributions of individual species. During the second part of the term, the labs will be used for oral presentations of student papers.

Required Texts

Glen MacDonald, 2003. Biogeography. J. Wiley, New York. 518p.

Grading (Weighting)

First exam	25%
Second exam	25%
Lab exam	20%
Paper	30%

The final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. It is not essential to pass all elements/components to pass the course as a whole.

Prerequisite: Copy from current Calendar

Grading System

The official grading scheme of the university will be used (Course Information Section in the University Calendar):

A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject
A-	3.70	↑ Good - clearly above average performance
B+	3.30	
B	3.00	
B-	2.70	↑ Satisfactory performance – basic understanding of the subject
C+	2.30	
C	2.00	
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	Minimal Pass-marginal performance
F	0	Fail - - poor performance

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.

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- Assignments will be handed back only in class or by the Professor at pre-arranged time(s).
- To receive your assignment back via mail, please include an appropriately sized self-addressed, stamped envelope with your assignment when handing in to the professor.
- Posting of grades will be at the discretion of each Professor and, if posted, they will be scrambled. 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: suvpaca@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.