



Geog 417: Biogeography and Natural Ecosystems

[H(2-3)(Area III) Winter, 2006: Tentative Schedule]

Time table: Lec20 MW 12:00-13:00, ES653
Lab20 T 14:00-17:00, SA119

Instructor:

Dr Geoffrey Hay
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Course Assistant:

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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 labs, guest lectures, and the identification of common and native plants, with an emphasis on the completion and presentation of a major team project based in the Kananaskis, Country.

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 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.*
- 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)

○ 3 Lab Assignments (≈ 3% each)	=	10%
○ Midterm (in class - 50 mins)	=	15%
○ Group Project: presentation (20%), paper (30%)	=	50%
○ Final Exam (scheduled by the Registrar's Office)	=	25%

NOTE: *it is not essential to pass all elements/components to pass the course as a whole.*

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

Tentative Schedule – subject to change, depending on guest lectures.

Wk	Date M/W	CONTENT	LABS
1	Jan 09 Jan 11	- Presentation of Course Outline - Introduction of Biogeography (Ch. 1)	
2	Jan 16 Jan 18	- Map Library - History of Biogeography (Ch. 2)	- Group time
3	Jan 23 Jan 25	- History of Biogeography (Ch. 2) - Patterns of Biodiversity (Ch. 3)	Lab 1: 24 Jan. DEM/RS – FLY - ES 415 (2hrs)
4	Jan 30 Feb 01	- Visit Greenhouse - Patterns of Biodiversity (Ch. 3)	Lab 2: Jan 31. Library – biology resources. Tues
5	Feb 06 Feb 08	- Patterns of Distribution (Ch. 4) - Patterns of Distribution (Ch. 4)	Lab 3: Feb 07. Identification - dried plants
6	Feb 13 Feb 15	- Guest Lecture (Dr McDermid – Grizzly Project) - MIDTERM (15%)	- Group time
7	Feb 20-24	- READING WEEK	
8	Feb 27 Mar 01	- Communities and Ecosystems (Ch. 5) - Communities and Ecosystems (Ch. 5)	- Group time
9	Mar 06 Mar 08	- Island Biogeography (Ch.7) - Guest Lecture (Dr Alexander – Island wolves)	- Group time
10	Mar 13 Mar 15	- Living in the Past (Ch.8) - Documentary (Birth of Rockies)	- Group time
11	Mar 20 Mar 22	- Geography of life today (Ch. 9) - Geography of life today (Ch. 9)	- Group time
12	Mar 27 Mar 29	- Group Presentations – 1 & 2 - Group Presentations – 3 & 4	- Group time
13	April 03 April 05	- Group Presentations – 5 & 6 - Group Presentations – 7 & 8	- Group time
14	April 10 April 12	- Group presentations – 9 & 10 - Review	- Group time
End Winter Session (April,13), Final Exams (April,17-28)			

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/>

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: suypaca@ucalgary.ca

SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: socialsciirep@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.