BSC 4821 Biogeography, Spring 2013

Where & When: BIO 209, Tu & Thurs 1:30-3:20 pm
Instructor: Dr. David G. Jenkins, BIO 111B, 823-1660, david.jenkins@ucf.edu
Web Page: http://jenkins.cos.edu/classes/biogeography
Text: Lomolino, Riddle, Whittaker and Brown. Biogeography. 4th edition, Sinauer. ISBN 978-0-87893-494-2 In the UCF bookstore and at allbookstores.com
TurnItIn,com: BSC 4821 – Spring 2013; Class ID = 5908196; password = biogeography

Course Description: Biogeography is the study of geographic variation in biota. It builds on ecology and evolution: students are expected to be conversant in both fields for this course – thus the prerequisites. Objectives for students include: (a) master major concepts of biogeography, and (b) understand the geological, evolutionary, and ecological processes that determine biogeographic patterns.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites: An ecology course and an evolution course are required.

Performance Evaluation:

Midterm & Final	45.0 % each
Discussion Participation	10.0

Grade scale: A = 90-100, B = 80-89.9, C – 70-79.9, D = 60-69.9, F ≤ 59.9

Midterms and Final Exam: Your grade is largely based on two take-home (open-book) exams (see schedule below). You will submit the exams via TurnItIn.com. The final is comprehensive. Questions will require you to think, analyze information, apply what you have learned from the text + lectures/discussions, and write as a cogent scientist (see the text for a model of cogent scientific writing style). Allow time to edit your writing before submitting.

"Lectures": Class time will be a mix of standard lecture and organized discussions / activities. Beyond showing up, you must read carefully and in advance, and talk, ask questions, and answer questions. In other words, ***participate fully!*** Suggestions include:

- Read the entire text this semester – it is well written, comprehensive, and modern.
- Take notes while reading in advance. If needed, review appropriate sections of intro-level
- ecology and evolution texts.
- Budget your time to read during the week, do background reading, and think. Write your thoughts for future use on exams.
- Come out of that shell. *Talk, ask questions, answer questions.*
- Bring the text to class – you will use it in discussions as a reference.

Other Business:

1. Attendance is important for your learning, but is not counted in your grade.
2. You are expected to abide by the UCF rules for student conduct [http://www.ucf.edu/goldenrule]. Plagiarism = a grade of zero for the course.
3. All reasonable accommodations will be made for disabilities documented through the Office of Student Disability Services (SRC 132; 407-823-2371).
4. The instructor reserves the option to adjust the rules, schedule, and grading system as outlined in this syllabus as needed to maintain the best possible educational integrity of the course. Any such changes will be announced and revised syllabi will be distributed.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGES)

Class Dates	Subjects	Chapters to Read [1]
Jan 8, 10	Syllabus & Intro **NO CLASS THUR 10th**	1 + 2 M
Jan 15, 17	Overview & History	3 M
Jan 22, 24	Biogeography Patterns	4 + 5 M
Jan 29, 31	Ecological Foundations, Communities & Biomes	6 + 7 M
Feb 5, 7	Dispersal, Immigration, Speciation, Extinction	8 M
Feb 12, 14	Plate Tectonics & Effects on Biogeography	9 M
Feb 19, 21	Glaciation & Effects on Biogeography **M**	10 M
Feb 26, 28	Geography of Diversification, **MIDTERM DUE FEB 28, NOON** [2]	11 F
Mar 5, 7	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
Mar 12, 14	History of Lineages & Biotas	12 F
Mar 19, 21	History of Biotas	13 F
Mar 26, 28	Island Biogeography I	14 F
Apr 2, 4	Island Biogeography II	15 F
Apr 9, 11	Continental/Oceanic Biogeography	16 F
Apr 16, 18	Conservation & Human Footprint	17 F
Apr 23	Frontiers of Biogeography **F**	
Apr 24-30	**FINALS WEEK** **FINAL DUE APR 30th, NOON** [3]	

Footnotes:

1. M = on midterm, F = on final
2. The midterm exam is take-home, to be submitted to turnitin.com, class id = 5908196; password = biogeography
3. The final exam is take-home, to be submitted to turnitin.com, class id =5908196; password = biogeography