

BSC 4821 Biogeography, Fall 2016

Where & When: NSC 100, Mon & Wed 10:30 – 11:50
Instructor: Dr. David G. Jenkins, BIO 111B, 407-823-1660, david.jenkins@ucf.edu
Web Page: <http://jenkins.cos.ucf.edu>
Text: Lomolino et al. 2010. Biogeography. 4th edition, Sinauer.
ISBN 978-0-87893-494-2 In the UCF bookstore and at allbookstores.com
TurnItIn.com: BSC 4821 Biogeography Fall 2016; Class ID = 12628815; pw = 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
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) essay 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 and citation style). *Allow time to edit your writing before submitting!*

“Lectures”: Class time will be a mix of standard lecture and organized discussions / activities. You must read carefully *in advance* so you can discuss in class (ask and answer questions), and most importantly, think well. In other words, ***participate fully!*** 10% of your grade (i.e., one letter grade's worth) depends on your full participation.

Suggestions:

- Budget time to read the entire text this semester – it is comprehensive but well-written.
- Take notes while reading in advance. If needed, review appropriate sections of intro-level ecology and evolution texts. You did keep those, didn't you?
- If while reading you learn you should know some background, stop and do some background reading to catch up. This course assumes you are well-versed in Ecology and Evolution.
- ***In class: talk, ask questions, answer questions.***
- Bring the text to class – you will use it in discussions as a reference.
- Take notes during class meetings.
- Feel free to use journal articles and other peer-reviewed resources for exams.
- Use the text as an example for your own writing and citation styles.

Other Business:

1. Attendance is important for your learning, but is not counted in your grade. Participation is.
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). Please talk to Dr. Jenkins.
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
Aug 22, 24	Syllabus (22 nd) & Intro (24 th)	1 + 2 M
Aug 29, 31	History of Biogeography	3 M
Sep 5, 7	LABOR DAY , Geographic Template	4 + 5 M
Sep 12, 14	Ecological Foundations, Communities & Biomes	6 M
Sep 19, 21	Dispersal, Immigration,	7 M
Sep 26, 28	Speciation, Extinction	8 M
Oct 3, 5	Plate Tectonics & Effects on Biogeography	9 M
Oct 10, 12	Glaciation & Effects on Biogeography M ¹	10 M
Oct 17, 19	Geography of Diversification, <u>MIDTERM DUE OCT 17, 10:00 AM</u> ²	11 F
Oct 24, 26	History of Lineages & Biotas	12 F
Oct 31, Nov 2	History of Biotas	13 F
Nov 7, 9	Island Biogeography I	14 F
Nov 14, 16	Island Biogeography II	15 F
Nov 21, 23	Continental Biogeography, T'GIVING	16 F
Nov 28, 30	Oceanic Biogeography, Footprint, Frontiers	17,18 F
Dec 5, 7	STUDY DAY / FINALS WEEK <u>FINAL DUE DEC 7, NOON</u> ³	

Footnotes:

1. M = on the midterm, F = on the final
2. The midterm exam is take-home, to be submitted to turnitin.com, class id = 12628815; password = biogeography
3. The final exam is take-home, to be submitted to turnitin.com, class id = 12628815; password = biogeography