

## BSC 4821 Biogeography, Spring 2015

**Where & When:** HEC 119, Tues & Thurs 11:30-1:20 pm  
**Instructor:** Dr. David G. Jenkins, BIO 111B, 823-1660, david.jenkins@ucf.edu  
**Web Page:** <http://jenkins.cos.ucf.edu/?p=300>  
**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 2015; Class ID = 9220735; 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
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. Beyond merely showing up, 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:**

- 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. You did keep those, didn't you?
- Budget your time to read during the week, do background reading, and think. Write your thoughts for future use on exams.
- ***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).
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)**

<b>Class Dates</b>	<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Chapters to Read <sup>1</sup></b>
Jan 13, 15	Syllabus (13 <sup>th</sup> ) & Intro (15 <sup>th</sup> )	1 + 2 M
Jan 20, 22	Overview & History	3 M
Jan 27, 29	Biogeography Patterns	4 + 5 M
Feb 3, 5	Ecological Foundations, Communities & Biomes	6 + 7 M
Feb 10, 12	Dispersal, Immigration, Speciation, Extinction	8 M
Feb 17, 19	Plate Tectonics & Effects on Biogeography	9 M
Feb 24, 26	Glaciation & Effects on Biogeography <b>M</b> <sup>1</sup>	10 M
Mar 3, 5	Geography of Diversification, <b><u>MIDTERM DUE MAR 3, 11:00</u></b> <sup>2</sup>	11 F
Mar 10, 12	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
Mar 17, 19	History of Lineages & Biotas	12 F
Mar 24, 26	History of Biotas	13 F
Mar 31, Apr 2	Island Biogeography I	14 F
Apr 7, 9	Island Biogeography II	15 F
Apr 14, 16	Continental/Oceanic Biogeography	16 F
Apr 21, 23	Conservation & Human Footprint, Frontiers, <b>F</b> <sup>1</sup>	17 + 18 F
Apr 28, 30	<b>FINALS WEEK</b> <b><u>FINAL DUE APR 30th, NOON</u></b> <sup>3</sup>	

## Footnotes:

1. M = midterm, F = final
2. The midterm exam is take-home, to be submitted to turnitin.com, class id = 9220735; password = biogeography
3. The final exam is take-home, to be submitted to turnitin.com, class id =9220735; password = biogeography