



Geography 325 – Biogeography*

Grading: The grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) will be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class.

Textbook: Cox, C. B. and Moore, P. D. (2010): *Biogeography: An Ecological and Evolutionary Approach*, 8th Edition: Blackwell Scientific Publications, ISBN 978-0-470-63794-4

Course Description:

This course serves as an introduction to Biogeography. The course introduces students to the distribution patterns of plants and animals and to the factors that determine these patterns. Biogeography is an integrative field of inquiry that unites concepts and information from ecology, evolutionary biology, geology and physical geography.

I will first introduce the study of biogeography, and then survey the history of biogeography as a field of study. The rest of the semester will be devoted to: 1) examining patterns and processes that can explain origination, maintenance, and changes in biotic distributions and diversity; 2) the historical events and processes of evolution which have influenced the distribution of living and now extinct organisms 3) introducing methods of analysis in biogeography; and 4) relating biogeographical pattern and process to the conservation of biodiversity.

All exam questions will be drawn from lecture material and supplemented by the suggested readings.

Tentative Schedule:

Week	Tentative lecture topics	Cox and Moore 8 th Ed.
1	Introduction to Biogeography	Chapter 1
2	Patterns of Distribution; Geographic variation in the physical environment	Chapter 2
3	Communities and Ecosystems	Chapter 3
4	Biodiversity	Chapter 4
5	Plate tectonic and past patterns	Chapter 5
6	Evolution	Chapter 6
7	Specification, dispersal and distribution	Chapter 7
8	Island Biogeography	Chapter 8
9	Historical Biogeography	Chapter 10
10	The geography of life today	Chapter 11
11	Biogeographic changes in the Pleistocene	Chapter 12
12	Present and previous impacts that influence today	Chapter 13 and 14
13	The emergence of humans	Chapter 13 and 14

* *This is **not an official course outline**. The course outline will be distributed within the first week of class.*