

Dr. Jim Dyer
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Office Hours: T 1:30-3:00, Th 12:10-1:30, or by appt
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Auxiliary content and materials for this course are available through Blackboard

GEOG 316/516 (03337/03367) or
BIOS 316/516 (01014/01096)
Fall 2009-2010
4/5 credits (316/516)
T/Th 10:10-12:00, Grover Center W123

Biogeography

This course will focus on spatial patterns of plant and animal distributions. We will examine the historical (*speciation, migration, dispersal*), environmental (*climate, soils, topography*) and biotic (*competition, resource partitioning*) influences that shape these patterns, and affect community structure. Disturbances and vegetation recovery also will be discussed.

Readings:

Readings will be drawn from two textbooks:

Biogeography: Introduction to Space, Time and Life, MacDonald, 2003.

Biogeography (3rd ed.), Lomolino, Riddle, & Brown, 2006.

Grading: There will be two exams: a midterm and a non-cumulative final, each worth 100 points. The format of the exams will be primarily short essay, in addition to terminology identification, and definitional fill-ins. **You are required to bring “Blue Books” to the exams.** In addition to exams, undergraduates will write a “biome” paper, whereas graduate students will write a research paper/literature review. Papers also will be worth 100 points. Finally, activities and assignments (mostly in-class) amplifying course material will also contribute a small percentage to your final grade. It is a good practice to save all of your graded and returned assignments until you receive your grade for the course.

Grading scale:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
93-100%	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	≤59

Students having any special needs or disability that might affect their performance in this class are encouraged to speak to me at the start of the quarter to discuss necessary arrangements.

⚠ Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating on exams, or who submits exercises prepared totally or in part by another, will receive a zero for the assignment. Plagiarism (presenting the ideas or the writing of someone else as your own) on your papers will result in a grade of “F” for the course. All incidents of academic dishonesty also may be reported to the Director of University Judiciaries for further action. (For an elaboration on what constitutes academic misconduct, refer to the Student Judiciaries web page: <http://www.ohio.edu/judiciaries/academic-misconduct.cfm#students>.)

Seventy percent of success in life is showing up - Woody Allen. Although not a basis for student grades, good attendance is essential for success in this class. If any topic is unclear after lecture, please do not hesitate to see me as soon as possible, individually or in a group. Feel free to e-mail me with questions as well. Please note, I do not give out copies of my lecture notes. If you miss class, you will need to get notes from a fellow student.

H1N1 Virus – The CDC is advising universities to instruct students not to attend class if they experience symptoms such as fever, a cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills or fatigue, limiting contact with others. Students will not be penalized if they act responsibly. In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes.

TENTATIVE LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

Week of:	Topic:	*Readings:
Sep 8/10	Logistics & Course Introduction; Biological Diversity	L – Chapter 1; Background: M – pp. 9-22; M – Chapter 14
Sep 15/17	Island Biogeography Theory; Species Distributions: The Role of the Physical Environment	Background: M – pp. 22-35; L – Chapter 4
Sep 22/24	Soils & the physical environment continued	
Sep/Oct 29/1	Species Distributions: Biological Interactions	
Oct 6/8	Disturbance MIDTERM EXAM (Oct 8)	M – Chapter 5
Oct 13/15	Succession	
Oct 20/22	Evolution, Natural Selection, Speciation and Extinction	M – Chapter 9
Oct 27/29	Biogeographical Dispersal	M – Chapter 8
Nov 3/5	“Paleobiogeography:” Continental Drifting and Climatic Change	L – Chapters 8 & 9
Nov 10/12	Biogeographic Realms; Land Use/Land Cover Change: Presettlement Vegetation	M – Chapter 10

* L = Lomolino et al., M = MacDonald

FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd at 8:00 a.m.

More on the papers:

Guidelines for papers are posted on the Blackboard site (see “Course Documents”).

- Undergraduates will write a 6-8 page paper (excluding figures, references, etc.) characterizing a terrestrial biome of his or her choosing. (Biomes are major regional groupings of plants and animals (e.g. tropical savanna, boreal forest) that are manifestations of the interaction between organisms and their physical environment; additional details are provided on Blackboard.) **Undergraduate topics need to be approved (via e-mail) no later than September 17th.**
- Graduate students will write a 10-12 page research paper/literature review on a topic relevant to the course. (Additional details are provided on Blackboard.) **Graduate topics need to be approved by October 20th,** and students are encouraged to meet with me before the due date to discuss topic ideas. By this date, you should have done enough background work to determine if you have chosen an acceptable topic; **subsequent changes in the topic will not be allowed.** You will need to turn in a paper (<1 page, typed) that includes a title and a **specific** description of the material about which you will write.
- In lieu of the undergraduate biome paper or the graduate term paper, students have the option of completing an alternative assignment that combines field work, data analysis, and literature review. Due to logistical constraints, this project will be limited to a maximum of 20 students, who can sign up (via e-mail, or in person) on a “first-come, first-served” basis. On one day, each student will be part of a small group who will participate in standard vegetation sampling of a plot in the Hocking Hills. The field days would be on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday: September 18, 19, 20, September 25, 26, 27, or October 3, 4. Although this is an opportunity to be exposed to biogeographic methods, the data we collect will be part of an ongoing research project, so the field work must be performed conscientiously. No prior experience is required, however. The written component of the project will consist of responses to several questions that I provide focusing on the analysis and interpretation of the field data, as well as an annotated bibliography focusing on hemlock-dominated communities.
- **Undergraduate and Graduate Papers are due Thursday, November 12th.**