

Syllabus for Biology 6312 (Zoogeography)

Biol6312: Spring 2008

<http://www.wtamu.edu/~rmatlack/biol6312.htm>

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Class Hours: TTh: 10:00-11:15

Location: ANS 310

Text Book: *Biogeography*, 3rd edition. 2006. Mark V. Lomolino, Brett R. Riddle, and James H. Brown.

Office Hours: T 12:00-1:00, Th 12:00-1:00 & 2:15-3:15. I would be happy to schedule an appointment to meet with you at anytime I am available. You may schedule an appointment to meet with me via email or phone. I check my email and voice mail several times each day and will promptly reply to your messages.

Course Objectives:

The course is designed to provide students with an understanding of zoogeography, the study of the spatial patterns, or geography, of animals. The focus of the course will be on the ecology of zoogeography and the application of zoogeography theory to conservation of species and biodiversity. However, we will also examine basic environmental and zoogeographic patterns and basic zoogeographic processes.

1. Develop an understanding of the discipline of zoogeography
2. Examine environmental and zoogeographic patterns
3. Develop an understanding of the influence of earth history and basic zoogeographic processes on animals
4. Examine, in detail, ecological zoogeography including the theory of island biogeography and the application of the theory to terrestrial islands and conservation
5. Explore the application of zoogeography to conservation

Class Policies:

Attendance – Since participation accounts for a portion of your grade, missing class will result in a loss of points. Avoid missing class, if at all possible, when you are responsible for leading discussion or otherwise responsible for extra participation during a particular class. If you must miss class, please contact me prior to class to inform me of your absence. Give me as much advance notice as possible if you were scheduled to lead discussion so that I can plan alternate activities. Regardless of whether you are in class or not, however, you are responsible for everything which is discussed in lecture, any announcements made in class, everything assigned as class reading, and any handouts which are given in class. If you miss class, you must make your own arrangements for access to class notes or handouts from classes that you miss. I will not provide copies of my class notes except under very rare circumstances (serious injury, surgery, etc.) and by PRIOR arrangement only.

Grading:

Two lecture exams @150 pts. each	300 pts.
Discussion Leader Evaluation	100 pts.
Participation	50 pts.
Final Exam (approximately 1/3 cumulative, 2/3 over 3 rd section of material)	200 pts.
Discussion essay exams (instructor's discretion)	<u>100 pts. each</u>
	>=650 pts.

Discussion Leader Evaluation:

Each student will be required to serve as a discussion leader during the semester. A discussion leader will be evaluated according the following criteria: (1) preparation and (2) quality of the discussion. Preparation includes displaying knowledge of the material, the use of prepared questions to facilitate discussion, the use of handouts/presentation materials, etc. Keep in mind, however, that these sessions are intended to be discussions, not lectures. Additional information will be provided in class.

Discussion and discussion essay exams:

Discussion is an essential part of the graduate education experience and as such is an important part of this class. The quality of the discussion is directly related to the level of preparedness of the students in the class. To ensure students are prepared for discussion, a portion of your grade will be based on your participation in and quality of your discussions. I expect that each student will have a list of prepared questions and/or comments over each reading assignment. Special attention will be paid to our discussions that are led by students. Be sure to have carefully read the assigned readings and come prepared (with notes) to discuss the material. **I reserve the right to cancel discussion and administer an essay exam any time the group is not prepared or participating actively in a discussion.** This decision will be made at my discretion and will be based on my expectations of a vigorous and productive discussion.

Grade scale: A= 90-100%

B= 80-89%

C= 70-79%

D= 60-69%

F= 0-59%

Tentative Exam Dates:

Exam 1	23 September (Tuesday)
Exam 2	23 October (Thursday)
Final Exam	9:30 am, Thursday, 11 December

Makeup exams – All exams must be taken at the times announced in class or in the syllabus. Make up exams will be given at the instructor's discretion unless the student has a doctor's letter or letter of absence for a school-sponsored event. If you have a serious reason for missing an exam, you must contact me **BEFORE** the scheduled exam period to notify me that you cannot take the exam. You are then responsible for arranging with me to make up the test **within two days** of your return to campus. **If you are late to an exam and students have completed their exam and left the classroom you have missed the exam.**

Note: Exams are subject to change and I reserve the right to change any and all information contained in the syllabus.

Behavior – Please be considerate of the other students in the classroom. Remember that each student pays to take this class and most students are here to learn the material. Disruptive behavior such as talking, using cell phones, and passing notes **WILL NOT** be tolerated during lecture. If you engage in disruptive behavior you will be assigned a seat at the front of the classroom. If you continue to behave in a disruptive manner you will be removed from the classroom.

Academic dishonesty - If you are uncertain about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please read the appropriate sections in the Code of Student Life. I will have zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. Instances of dishonesty will be punished to the fullest extent possible, including the receipt of a failing grade for the course. Take care to avoid the appearance of cheating! During exams keep your eyes on your own paper, keep books and bags closed, and put all paper away.

Lecture & Reading Schedule

Topic	Reading
The Science of Biogeography**	Ch. 1
Physical Setting: the Geographic Template**	Ch. 3
The Distribution of Species: Ecological Foundations	Ch. 4
The Geography of Communities*	Ch. 5
Dispersal and Immigration*	Ch. 6
The Changing Earth**	Ch. 8
Glaciation and Biogeographic Dynamics of the Pleistocene*	Ch. 9
The Geography of Diversification*	Ch. 10
Island Biogeography: Patterns in Species Richness*	Ch. 13
Island Biogeography: Assembly and Evolution of Insular Communities*	Ch. 14
Areography, Ecogeographic Rules, and Diversity Gradients*	Ch. 15
Biogeography and the Geography of Extinction*	Ch. 16
Conservation Biogeography	Ch. 17
* Topics for discussion leaders ** Topics that will not be covered in lecture but will be included on the exam (cover on your own)	Note: Additional readings will be assigned

Students with Disabilities:

WTAMU seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with Disability Support Services and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

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Safety:

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) are provided for all chemicals used in this class. MSDSs provide information about physical properties, health risks, fire and explosion data, and other important information associated with these chemicals. Before handling or using a chemical, you should refer to the MSDS for that chemical. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor in writing of any health conditions that may prevent you from safely using a chemical (pregnancy, auto immune deficiency, etc.). It is also the responsibility of the student to report any spills or problems found while storing or using a chemical. If you are unsure about a chemical, always ask. If you see any unsafe condition, notify your instructor immediately. If you are unsure about the proper and safe operation of any piece of equipment, ask your instructor for proper instruction. All injuries, spills of materials and unsafe conditions must be reported to the instructor immediately.

Evacuation:

When you receive notice to evacuate the building, please evacuate promptly but in an orderly manner. Evacuation routes are posted in various locations indicating all exits, outside assembly area, location of fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations, and emergency telephone numbers (651-5000 or 911). In the event an evacuation is necessary, evacuate immediately; do not use elevators; take all personal belongings with you; report to outside assembly area and wait for further information; students needing assistance in the evacuation process should bring this to the attention of the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

It is the responsibility of students and instructors to help maintain scholastic integrity at the University by refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonesty. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty. This listing is not exclusive of any other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute scholastic dishonesty: acquiring or providing information for any assigned work or examination from any unauthorized source; informing any person or persons of the contents of any examination prior to the time the examination is given in subsequent sections of the course or as a makeup; plagiarism, submission of a paper or project that is substantially the same for two courses unless expressly authorized by the instructor to do so. (2007-2008, CODE OF STUDENT LIFE, Rules and Procedures for Students, West Texas A&M University).

A complete statement regarding scholastic dishonesty can be found in the Student Code of Life at <http://www.wtamu.edu/administrative/ss/code/code.html#procedures>.