

**Plant Geography – Fall 2018**  
**BOT4621**

**Credits:** 2

**Schedule:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5<sup>th</sup> period (11:45 am - 12:35 pm)

**Location:** FLG 208 (Florida Gym)

**Instructor:** Dr. Nico Cellinese  
354 Dickinson Hall  
Florida Museum of Natural History  
Museum Road & Newell Drive  
Gainesville, FL 32611  
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**Office hours:** By appointment or drop by office

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course description**

This course examines patterns in the distribution of plants around the earth and addresses many of the factors that influence plant geography. We will consider similarities of plant communities in different parts of the world as well as common distribution patterns among individual taxa. Methods for inferring biogeographic history and predicting future changes in plant distribution will be discussed

TEXTBOOKS (optional): Biogeography, 4th ed, by Lomolino, Riddle, Whittaker, and Brown  
Sinauer Associates, Inc., Publishers, ISBN 0-87893-062-0  
Ecology of World Vegetation, by Archibold, O.W., Chapman & Hall  
Additional readings will be provided.

**Objectives and basis for grading**

*Lectures*

Lectures will provide an overview of major topics in plant geography. Students will be introduced to a broad variety of ideas and methods. Attendance will be graded.

*Exams*

One mid-term exam and one final exam will test the student's understanding of course topics, as covered by lectures, in assigned reading and in some discussions. The exams will include multiple questions requiring short answers (not multiple choices).

## Grading

### % by activity

Activity	% of final grade
Quizzes	50
Final exam	50
Participation in class discussions	Earns percentage points towards final grade

94.0-100%	A
90.0-93.9%	A-
87.0-89.9%	B+
84.0-86.9%	B
80.0-83.9 %	B-
77.0-79.9%	C+
74.0-76.9%	C
70.0-73.9%	C-
67.0-69.9%	D+
64.0-66.9%	D
60.0-63.9%	D-
<60%	E

### Assignments and attendance policy

**Attendance is mandatory** and students should be prepared to justify absences. Frequent absences will result in the student being less able to effectively answer quizzes, exam questions, and participate in class discussions. No make-up quiz/exam will be given unless *exceptional* circumstances arise.

### Lecture Topics

August 23	Introduction to course and biogeography
August 28	Evolution Pt. 1/tree thinking
August 30	Evolution Pt. 2
September 4	Evolution Pt. 3/speciation
September 6	World climate and Vegetation Pt. 1
September 11	World climate and Vegetation Pt. 2
September 13	<b>Quiz/class discussion</b>
September 18	Major Biomes: The Tropics Pt. 2
September 20	Major Biomes: The Tropics Pt. 1
September 25	Major Biomes: Savannas
September 27	Major Biomes: Mediterranean habitats Pt. 1
October 2	Major Biomes: Mediterranean habitats Pt. 2
October 4	<b>Quiz/class discussion</b>
October 9	Major Biomes: Deserts
October 11	Major Biomes: Temperate forests

October 16	Major Biomes: Temperate rainforests
October 18	Major Biomes: Temperate Grasslands
October 23	Major Biomes: Boreal forests and Tundra
October 25	<b>Quiz/class discussion</b>
October 30	Geological times and plate tectonics Pt. 1
November 1	Geological times and plate tectonics Pt. 2
November 6	Vicariance, disjunction, dispersal, endemism and extinction
November 8	Biogeography Pt. 1
November 13	<b>Quiz/class discussion</b>
November 15	Biogeography Pt. 2
November 20	Islands Pt. 1
November 27	Islands Pt. 2
November 29	Islands Pt. 3
December 4	<b>Quiz/class discussion</b>
December 13	<b>Final Exam</b>

**Class Demeanor Expected by Instructor:** Students should be considerate, polite, open-minded, objective and show interest in the work of others. UF rules prohibit having food or drinks in classrooms. Use of tobacco products (in any form) in the classroom is prohibited.

**Additional General Information:** The following information applies to all courses at the University of Florida.

**We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standard of honesty and integrity.**

**Academic Honesty:** As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

**Copyrighted Materials and Software Use:** All students are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing copyrighted material and software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

**University Counseling Services:** Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling; and
4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counsel.