

Plant Geography -- Fall 2014 BOT 4621

Credits: 2

Schedule: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6th period (12:50-1:40 pm)

Location: MCCA 2196 (McCarthy A)

Instructor: Dr. Nico Cellinese

354 Dickinson Hall

Florida Museum of Natural History

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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

TEXTBOOK: Biogeography, 3rd ed, by Lomolino, Riddle, and Brown 2010. Sinauer Associates, Inc., Publishers, ISBN 0-87893-062-0 (Recommended); Ecology of World Vegetation, by Archibold, O.W., Chapman & Hall (Optional). 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
Mid-term exam	50
Final exam	50

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 at class and seminars is expected, and students should be prepared to justify absences. Frequent absences will certainly result in the student being less able to effectively answer exam questions. No make-up exams will be given unless exceptional circumstances arise.

Lecture Topics

August 26	Introduction to course and biogeography
August 28	World climate and Vegetation Pt. 1
September 2	World climate and Vegetation Pt. 2
September 4	Major Biomes: Mediterranean habitats Pt. 1
September 9	Major Biomes: Mediterranean habitats Pt. 2
September 11	Major Biomes: Deserts Pt. 1
September 16	Major Biomes: Deserts Pt. 2
September 18	Major Biomes: The Tropics Pt. 1
September 23	Major Biomes: The Tropics Pt. 2
September 25	Major Biomes: The Tropics Pt. 3
September 30	Major Biomes: Savannas
October 2	Major Biomes: Temperate forests and rainforest
October 7	Major Biomes: Boreal forests and Tundra
October 9	Major Biomes: Grasslands
October 14	Geological times and plate tectonics
October 16	Evolution and Systematics Pt. 1
October 21	Evolution and Systematics Pt. 2

October 23	Speciation
October 28	Mid-term exam
October 30	Vicariance, disjunction, dispersal, endemism and extinction Pt. 1
November 4	Vicariance, disjunction, dispersal, endemism and extinction Pt. 2
November 6	Historical Biogeography Pt. 1
November 13	Historical Biogeography Pt. 2
November 18	Patterns of distribution and major disjunctions Pt. 1
November 20	Patterns of distribution and major disjunctions Pt. 2
November 25	Island Biogeography Pt. 1
December 2	Island Biogeography Pt. 2
December 4	Island Biogeography Pt. 3
December 9	Species/Area conservation
December 16	Final Exam

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.