

Plant Geography – Spring 2016 **BOT4621**

Credits: 2

Schedule: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5th period (11:45 am - 12:35 pm)

Location: CSE E222 & CSE E119 (Computer Science)

Instructor: Dr. Nico Cellinese
354 Dickinson Hall
Florida Museum of Natural History
Museum Road & Newell Drive
Gainesville, FL 32611
TEL: (352) 273-1979
Email: ncellinese@flmnh.ufl.edu

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

January 5	Introduction to course and biogeography
January 7	World climate and Vegetation Pt. 1
January 12	World climate and Vegetation Pt. 2
January 14	Major Biomes: Mediterranean habitats Pt. 1
January 19	Major Biomes: Mediterranean habitats Pt. 2
January 21	Major Biomes: Mediterranean habitats Pt. 3
January 26	Major Biomes: The Tropics Pt. 1
January 28	Major Biomes: The Tropics Pt. 2
February 2	Major Biomes: The Tropics Pt. 3
February 4	Major Biomes: Savannas
February 9	Major Biomes: Deserts Pt. 1
February 11	Major Biomes: Deserts Pt. 2
February 16	Major Biomes: Temperate forests
February 18	Major Biomes: Temperate rainforests and Boreal forests
February 23	Major Biomes: Boreal forests and Tundra
February 25	Major Biomes: Temperate Grasslands
Spring Break	

March 8	Mid-term exam
March 10	Geological times and plate tectonics Pt1
March 15	Geological times and plate tectonics Pt2
March 17	Tree-Thinking
March 22	Evolution Pt1
March 24	Evolution Pt2
March 29	Evolution Pt3
March 31	Vicariance, disjunction, dispersal, endemism and extinction
April 5	Patterns of distribution and major disjunctions
April 7	Island Biogeography Pt. 1
April 12	Island Biogeography Pt. 2
April 14	Island Biogeography Pt. 3
April 19	Species/Area conservation
April 28	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.