Geography 418/618 and Biology 418/618  BIOGEOGRAPHY
Autumn 2019
Lecture section (no lab) 3 credits

Time/Place: 1-2 PM Murie Building room 103

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Mann, Department of Geosciences, UAF
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Office Hours: immediately before or after lecture, or by appointment

Course Description
Biogeography is the geography of life. It is a broad topic with relevance to many other disciplines. In this class, I emphasize the biogeography of polar and alpine regions. We pay special attention to the effects of climate change on biogeography. Undergraduate and graduate sections are taught concurrently. Geography/Biology 618 requires extra readings, additional test questions, and writing a more sophisticated term paper.

Course Prerequisites: BIOL 271 Ecology, GEOG 339 Mapping and Landscape Analysis, GEOS 401 Geomorphology, or instructor’s permission.

Course Objectives: This is a capstone course for upper division Geography, Geology, and Life Sciences undergraduates and graduate students. Throughout this course, I stress the influences human ecology has on the biogeography of other species. Lectures emphasize aspects of biogeography most pertinent to polar and alpine regions.

Instructional / Teaching Methods: This is a lecture course that relies on students attending class, participating in class discussions, and keeping up with assigned readings. There are several guest lecturers over the course of the semester.
Learning Methods / Student Assignments: Lectures and readings provide a background in biogeography’s processes and patterns. Undergraduate reading assignments are mostly within the textbook Biogeography: Biological Diversity across Time and Space” by Lomolino et al. Graduate students are assigned additional readings every week in the form of journal articles taken from the scientific literature. I will give quizzes on the assigned readings. Active participation in class discussions is required.

Required Text / articles: Biogeography: Biological Diversity across Time and Space by Lomolino, Riddle, and Whittaker. The journal articles assigned to graduate students will be posted in the class DROPBOX account.

Term Papers: Every student writes a term paper concerning some topic within the field of Biogeography that particularly interests them. Graduate students are encouraged to explore topics related to their thesis projects. I describe the rationale and scope of the term papers in more detail during lecture.

Writing this paper is a three-stage process that begins with submitting a list of possible topics. Under each of these possible topics, describe your reasons for choosing it. The second stage is for you to meet with me so we can agree on one of these topics. I will then help you begin the process of finding literature on the chosen topic. The third and final stage is submission of a 5-15 page, double-spaced, Word document.

The schedule of the term-paper process is as follows:
Friday 25 October or prior: Submit a one page list of at least three different term paper topics together with a brief description of why each topics is interesting and significant. Submit this as a hard copy.
Monday November 4 – Friday November 15 or prior: Meet with me to discuss your topics.
Friday December 6 or prior: Submit your final term paper as a Word document sent by email.

Online lectures / detailed class schedule: I use Dropbox to transfer reading assignments, lectures, and to update the class schedule. As a courtesy to you, all lectures are posted in Dropbox. The idea is that you can concentrate on listening to the lecture rather than scrambling to take detailed notes. Do not be fooled into
thinking you can skip class and catch up on lectures later. I post the lectures to optimize your learning. I also take attendance. In class, feel free to follow the lectures on your laptop. Don’t even dream of checking your email.

**SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, EXAMINATIONS, AND TERM PAPER**
See detailed lecture schedule and reading assignments posted in the class DROPBOX.

**Assignments and Grading:**
Midterm examination: 30%
Final Exam: 30%
Class Participation (attendance + discussion): 5%
Quizes on readings: 20%
Term paper: 15%

**CLASS CALENDAR**
Midterm examination: TBD; probably Friday, October 25
Final examination during regular class meeting on Wednesday, December 5

**Attendance:** attendance during lectures is mandatory.

**Course grades** will be assigned as indicated at the table below. Course %’s are for this course only and may vary with different instructors. Grade point values are indicated on the table as well. Please see “Academics and Regulations” section of UAF 2007-2008 Catalogue.

**grade % GP**
A+ 100-97 4.0
A 96-92 4.0
A- 91-90 3.7
B+ 89-87 3.3
B 86-82 3.0
B- 81-80 2.7
C+ 79-77 2.3
C 76-72 2.0
C- 71-70 1.7
D+ 69-67 1.3
D 66-62 1.0
D- 61-60 0.7

**Course Grading Scale:** All grades are determined on an absolute score (with no curve) according to the following scale:

A = 90-100 percent: outstanding work, mastery of topic
B = 80-89 percent: above average work, all assignments completed well
C = 70-79 percent: average, all or most assignments completed, most work satisfactory
D = 60-69 percent: pass, unsatisfactory or missing work
F = less than 60 percent: failure to meet requirements of course

**Support and Disabilities Services:** The UAF Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. The course instructors will work with the Office of Disabilities Services to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. Please notify the instructor of any special needs.

**Plagiarism/Academic Integrity:** University Standards and Policies apply (see UAF Catalog).

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit is not an option in this course except under very unusual circumstances.

**Information on Exams and Assignments:** Examination format will include a mixture of multiple choice, short answer / diagram / map, and essay.