

**BIOL 4000 - Biogeography  
2010**

**Spring**

Instructor: Dr. Ann Kohlhaas

Office N275, phone 667-3695, email akohlhaas@csustan.edu

Office hours: Tues & Wed 1:30 - 3 pm, and by appointment.

Lecture: MWF 11:15 a - 12:13p, N221

Textbook: Biogeography (3rd ed.) by Lomolino, Riddle, and Brown

The following schedule is tentative and subject to change. Major changes are not expected. The indicated chapters are reference reading from the textbook.

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Subjects</u></b>	<b><u>Chapter</u></b>
Feb 17	Introduction to Biogeography	1
Feb 19	History of Biogeography	2
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Feb 22	Ecology - Basic Principles	
Feb 24	Ecology - Abiotic Factors	3,4
Feb 26	Ecology - Biotic Factors	3,4
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March 1	Ecology - Biotic (cont.)	
March 3	Geography of Natural Communities	5
<b>March 5</b>	<b>Exam 1 (80 pts.)</b>	
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March 8	Geological History & Plate Tectonics	8,9
March 10	Geological History (cont.)	
March 12	Geological History (cont.)	
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March 15	Speciation	7
March 17	Extinction	7
March 19	Dispersal & Immigration	6
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March 22	Dispersal (cont.)	
<b>March 24</b>	<b>EXAM 2 (80 pts.)</b>	

**March 26****No Class - Furlough**

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March 29

Geography of Diversification

10

**March 31****NO CLASS - Campus Closed**

April 2

Geography of Diversification (cont.)

10

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**April 5-9****SPRING BREAK**

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April 12

Reconstructing Histories

11,12

April 14

(cont.)

April 16

Island Biogeography

13, 14

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April 19

Island Biogeography

13, 14

April 21

(cont.)

April 23

**No Class - Furlough**

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April 26

Island Biogeography

13, 14

April 28

(cont.)

**April 30****EXAM 3 (100 pts.)**

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May 3

Large Patterns in Diversity

15

May 5

Taxa Patterns

May 7

Taxa Patterns

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May 10

Applied Biogeography

16, 17

May 12

Presentations

May 14

**No Class - Furlough**

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May 17

Presentations

May 19

Presentations

May 21                      Presentations  
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May 24                      **No Class - Furlough**  
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**May 26, Wednesday, 11:15 am FINAL EXAM (120 PTS.)**

### **Expectations, Exams and Grading**

Grades will be based on four exams, 1 oral presentation with written outline and abstract, and participation.

**Exams:** Essay type (including definitions). Based primarily on material from lecture, including material presented by students during presentations. The final exam will be comprehensive, that is, including information learned since the beginning of the term. The midterm exams will also have some comprehensive material.

**Presentations:** Presentations of a relevant topic for class. Your total presentation will include a written abstract, a written outline, and an 8 - 10 min. Powerpoint presentation. More details on these requirements will be provided.

Grading for the oral presentation will be on preparedness and knowledge of the paper's contents. Level of nervousness will not be graded. However, you are expected to present in as professional a manner as possible.

The presentations must be on research papers (at least 6 pages long) published in scientific journals since 2008. I suggest you look first in the journals Journal of Biogeography, Diversity and Distributions, and Global Ecology and Biogeography. These are completely available to you online via our library (i.e. [www.csustan.edu](http://www.csustan.edu) ▪ library ▪ electronic journals). Articles from other journals will also be considered.

NOTE: the papers you are presenting must be pre-approved by me. Bring a copy of the paper for me to see. If it is from an electronic source, please print the pdf version.

**Participation:** Points will also be given for participation in the course. At its most basic, participation includes attendance and attentiveness. (note: these also means no web surfing or texting in class.) Even better, it includes contributing any comments or questions that you may have. Points will be lost for lateness, nonattendance, and inattentiveness.

**Grading summary:**

3 Midterm Exams	=	260 pts.
Final Exam	=	120 pts.
Presentation	=	50 pts.
Participation	=	20 pts.
TOTAL	=	450 pts.

Grades will be determined as a percent of the total possible points. Thus A = 405 - 450 pts., B = 360 - 404 pts., C = 315 - 359 pts., D = 270 - 314 pts., and F < 270 pts. Only letter grades will be given. No "+" or "-" will be appended to any grade.

**Extra Credit:** You can earn up to 20 points extra credit for writing an extra abstract or participating in a conservation project for at least half a day. Any work done for extra credit must be preapproved by your instructor. No extra credit will be approved after May 12.

**NOTE:** Late materials will be deducted 10 % points for each weekday late. Missed exams without a proper written and verifiable excuse will be recorded as 0 points. Any instance of cheating or plagiarism will result in an automatic F in the course.