

BIOL 4000 - Biogeography**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Dr. Ann Kohlhaas

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Office hours: Monday 1-3 pm and Tuesday 10-11 am; and by appointment.

Lecture: MWF 11 – 11:50 am, N221

Textbook: Biogeography (4th ed.) by Lomolino, Riddle, Whittaker, 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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subjects</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Jan 28	Introduction to Biogeography	1

Jan 31	(cont.)	
Feb 2	History of Biogeography	2
Feb 4	Ecology – Basic Principles	3,4

Feb 7	(cont.)	
Feb 9	Ecology – Abiotic Factors	3,4
Feb 11	Ecology – Biotic Factors	3,4

Feb 14	Geography of Natural Communities	5
Feb 16	Communities (cont.)	
Feb 18	Exam 1 (80 pts.)	

Feb 21	Geological History & Plate Tectonics	8,9
Feb 23	Geological History (cont.)	
Feb 25	Geological History (cont.)	

Feb 28	Geological History (cont.)	
March 2	Speciation	7
March 4	Speciation (cont.)	

March 7	Extinction	7
March 9	Extinction (cont.)	

March 11	Dispersal & Immigration	6

March 14	Dispersal (cont.)	
March 16	EXAM 2 (100 pts.)	
March 18	Geography of Diversification	10

March 21 - 25	SPRING BREAK	

March 28	Geography of Diversification	10
March 30	(cont.)	
April 1	(cont.)	

April 4	Reconstructing Histories	11,12
April 6	(cont.)	
April 8	Island Biogeography	13, 14

April 11	Island Biogeography	13, 14
April 13	(cont.)	
April 15	(cont.)	

April 18	Island Biogeography	13, 14
April 20	(cont.)	
April 22	EXAM 3 (120 pts.)	

April 25	Large Patterns in Diversity	15
April 27	(cont.)	
April 29	Taxa Patterns	

May 2	Taxa Patterns	
May 4	Applied Biogeography	16, 17
May 6	Applied Biogeography	16, 17

May 9	Presentation	
May 11	Presentation	

May 13 Presentation

May 16 Presentation

May 18 Presentation

May 20, Friday, 11:15 am FINAL EXAM (130 PTS.)

Expectations, Exams and Grading

Grades will be based on four exams, one 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 given later.

Grading will be strictly 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 2009. 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 → library → electronic journals). Articles from other journals will also be considered.

NOTE: the papers you are presenting must be pre-approved by me. For scheduling purposes, I am requiring that everyone submit their first choices of papers to me by April 25 at the beginning of class time. Sooner is better and I will give priority to those who send their requests first. However, do not be too quick to choose papers on titles alone, as some papers are difficult to understand.

When you think have a paper that you want to present, bring a pdf copy of the first title page.

Participation: Points will also be given for participation in the course. At its most basic, participation includes attendance and attentiveness. 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	=	300 pts.
Final Exam	=	130 pts.
Presentation	=	50 pts.
<u>Participation</u>	=	<u>20 pts.</u>
TOTAL	=	500 pts.

Grades will be determined as a percent of the total possible points. Thus A = 450 - 500 pts., B= 400 - 449 pts., C= 350 - 399 pts., D = 300 - 349 pts., and F < 300 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 16.

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.