

# BIOL 330—Biogeography (4 credits)

Alexey Shipunov

Spring 2014



## SYLLABUS

**Class Dates** : January 15 to May 13, 2011

### Course Description :

This course will describe the spatial patterns in the distribution of species and will examine how abiotic and biotic factors are hypothesized to result in these patterns.

### Central Concepts :

Biogeography is the intersection of ecology, geography and taxonomy of living organisms.

**Instructor** : Dr. Alexey Shipunov

**Office** : Moore 229

**Office Hours** : Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Phone** : 858-3116

**E-mail** : alexey.shipunov@minotstateu.edu

**Lectures** : Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m., Moore 210

**Textbook** : **None**. However, several reference text will be available on-line

**Web site** : [http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol\\_330/](http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_330/)

Please note that lecture slides from the Web site are **not** containing all information which is given on lectures.

**Laboratories** : All laboratory hours will be shifted to the spring break trip to Puerto Rico (March 15 – March 21, five working days). Mandatory lab exam is planned after the trip.

### Grading :

**Three** equal exams are given during the semester. Together with a lab exam, there will be four tests. Only the **three best exams** contribute to the final grade. Missed exams count zero points. There are **no make-up** exams.

I strongly recommend to attend lectures regularly since lectures are the main reference text.

Absence on the trip or zero points for the lab exam results in a failed course.

Every Wednesday lecture will start from a short presentation based on the primary biogeographical literature. Presentation is mandatory. Every class member will make one individual presentation per semester.

A total of  $\approx 320$  points can be earned and are distributed as follows (grading points may vary):

**Three best exams** :  $\leq 240$  points

**Presentation** :  $\leq 80$  points

**Letter Grades** : A  $\geq 90\%$ , B  $\geq 80\%$ , C  $\geq 70\%$  D  $\geq 60\%$ , F  $< 60\%$ .

**Academic Honesty** : Honesty and integrity are central to academic life at Minot State University. Cheating may affect the student in accordance with the grading policy: a **minimum** of one letter grade will be deducted from the grade for academic dishonesty / plagiarism.

**Disability Needs :** In coordination with Disability Support services, reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with disabilities. Please contact the instructor during the first week of class to make arrangements. Additional information is available from MSU Disability Support Services.

**Tentative Course Schedule :**

Week 1	Jan 15	Introduction
Week 2	Jan 22, 24	Geography
Week 3	Jan 27, 29, 31	Earth history
Week 4	Feb 3, 5, 7	Ecology
"		1st exam: Feb 10
Week 5	Feb 12, 14	Ecology
Week 6	Feb 19, 21	Ecology
Week 7	Feb 24, 26, 28	Taxonomy
Week 8	Mar 3, 5, 7	Taxonomy
"		2nd exam: Mar 10
Week 9	Mar 12, 14	Taxonomy
		<b>Week 10: Spring break trip</b>
Week 11	Mar 24, 26, 28	Biogeography of the World. Dispersal and disjunctions
Week 12	Mar 31, Apr 2, 4	North America
Week 13	Apr 7, 9, 11	North America
"		Lab (trip) exam: Apr 14
Week 14	Apr 16	South America
Week 15	Apr 23, 25	Africa. Vicariance
Week 16	Apr 28, 30, May 2	Holarctic II: Eurasia. Indo-Pacific region. Island biogeography
Week 17	May 5, 7, 9	Australian region. Biogeography of Ocean
Week 18		4th Exam: Tuesday May 13, 9:00–9:50 a.m.

*Please note that the schedule is a subject to change. Only exam dates are fixed.*