

# Biogeography

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# Course in general

## Description



# 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.

We will study:

- ▶ main biogeographical regions of the world, their most important plants and animals;
- ▶ main Earth biomes;
- ▶ history of plant and animals distribution.

Students will demonstrate this knowledge in a classroom presentation. Laboratories will be shifted to the spring break trip.



# 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

**Laboratories** Spring break trip: March 15 – March 21, five working days

**Textbook** None. The main source are lectures, reference texts will be available on-line.



# Course Web site

© Shipunov, A. Biogeography [Electronic resource]. 2014—onwards.  
Mode of access: [http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol\\_330](http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_330)

## BIOL 330: Biogeography



Course materials:

- [Syllabus](#) (PDF, 0.14 Mb)

[Back](#)

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



# Course in general

## Grading



# Exams

- ▶ **Four** exams are given during the semester (including mandatory lab exam).
- ▶ Only the **three best exams** contribute to the final grade.
- ▶ Missed exams count zero points. There are **no make-up** exams.



# Spring break trip

- ▶ We will fly to San Juan (Puerto Rico) and spend five days in the field. The main goal is the introduction to tropical biology.
- ▶ Receiving zero points for lab exam or absence on the trip results in a **failed course**.



# Presentations

- ▶ From February, every Wednesday lecture will start from short presentation based on the primary literature representing the most important directions of contemporary biogeography.
- ▶ Every student in a class should prepare presentation **individually**.
- ▶ Presentation is mandatory.
- ▶ Along with my lecture presentations, your presentations will become materials for exams.
- ▶ List of articles for presentations and guidelines will be available for download on the Web site.



# Points

A total of  $\approx 320$  points can be earned and are distributed as follows:

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

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

Grading points may vary between exams and labs.



# Letter grades

- ▶  $A \geq 90\%$
- ▶  $B \geq 80\%$
- ▶  $C \geq 70\%$
- ▶  $D \geq 60\%$
- ▶  $F < 60\%$

A **minimum** of one letter grade will be deducted from the grade for academic dishonesty / plagiarism.



# Biogeography

## Introduction



Why do polar bears not eat penguins?



# What is biogeography?

Intersection between:

- ▶ Geography in wide sense (including climatology, landscape science, and even historical geology)
- ▶ Ecology (both of organisms and communities)
- ▶ Taxonomy (including phylogeny)

Contemporary biogeography always always takes into account the historical aspect.



# My contributions to biogeography

- ▶ Island biogeography: small uprising islands of White Sea (Russian Arctic)
- ▶ Species biogeography: color polymorphism in Caucasian primroses
- ▶ Regional biogeography: flora of North Dakota



# Summary

- ▶ Biogeography is an intersection between geography, ecology and taxonomy



# For Further Reading



A. Shipunov.

*Biogeography* [Electronic resource].

2014—onwards.

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