

BIOL 330—Biogeography (4 credits)

Alexey Shipunov

Spring 2016



SYLLABUS

Class Dates : January to May 2016

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. Separate Tropical Biology lab course will be given as a field trip during the spring break.

Central Concepts :

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

Instructor : Dr. Alexey Shipunov

Office : Moore 229

Office Hours : Mondays and Wednesdays, 1 pm to 3 pm.

Phone : 858-3116

E-mail : alexey.shipunov@minotstateu.edu, this is the preferable way of communication.

Lectures : Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 3 to 3:50 pm, Moore 210

Textbook : **None**. However, certain reference texts will be available on-line.

Web site : 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 (five working days). Lab exam is planned after the trip.

Grading :

Four exams are given. Missed exams count zero points. There is a possibility to **one make-up** exam. Absence on the trip, zero points for the lab exam or two zero exams results in a failed course.

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

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

A total of ≈ 500 points can be earned and are distributed as follows (grading points may vary):

Four exams : ≤ 400 points

Presentation : ≤ 100 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.

Minot State University interpersonal abuse statement (Title IX) : Minot State University strives to create a campus community free from interpersonal abuse including sexual misconduct. In working to achieve this intent, Minot State University commits to: taking action to stop sexual misconduct; taking action to remedy its effects by providing advocacy, support and appropriate referral services for recipients of the behavior; taking action to prevent recurrences; educating individuals and promoting discussions on interpersonal abuse and violence; and conducting impartial investigation of all reports/notices of sexual misconduct through fair, equitable and prompt procedures. Investigations will be independent of and separate from law enforcement investigations of criminal activity.

Tentative Course Schedule :

Week 1	Jan 13, 15	Introduction
Week 2	Jan 20, 22	Geography
Week 3	Jan 25, 27, 29	Earth history
Week 4	Feb 1, 3, 5	Ecology
"		1st exam: Feb 8
Week 5	Feb 10	Ecology
Week 6	Feb 17, 19	Ecology
Week 7	Feb 22, 24, 26	Taxonomy
Week 8	Feb 29, Mar 2, 4	Taxonomy
"		2nd exam: Mar 7
Week 9	Mar 9, 11	Taxonomy
		Week 10: Tropical Biology
Week 11	Mar 21, 23	Biogeography of the World. Dispersal and disjunctions
Week 12	Mar 30, Apr 1	North America
Week 13	Apr 4, 6, 8	North America
"		Lab exam: Apr 11
Week 14	Apr 13, 15	South America
Week 15	Apr 18, 20, 22	Africa. Vicariance
Week 16	Apr 25, 27, 29	Holarctic II: Eurasia. Indo-Pacific region. Island biogeography
Week 17	May 2, 4, 6	Australian region. Biogeography of Ocean
Week 18		4th Exam: Tuesday May 10, 3–3:50 pm

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