

BIOL 330—Biogeography (4 credits)

Alexey Shipunov

Spring 2018



SYLLABUS

Class Dates : January to May 2018

Course Description :

This is a class introductory to biogeography and tropical biology. 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.

Biogeography is MSU General Education IP2 (Interconnecting Perspectives – Experience) class.

Central Concepts :

Biogeography is the intersection of ecology, geography and taxonomy of living organisms. Central concepts are (1) what is where and (2) why. Introductory class covers mostly the first.

Instructor : Dr. Alexey Shipunov

Office : Moore 229 and University greenhouse

Office Hours : Fridays, from 1 pm till late.

Phone : 858-3116

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

Lectures : Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 12 to 12:50 pm, Moore 210

Textbook : Certain reference texts will made be available online, including the draft “Introduction to Biogeography and Tropical Biology”: http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_330/intr_biogeogr_trop_biol/intr_biogeogr_trop_biol.pdf. Note that it is continuously updating.

Web site : http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_330. Please note that lecture slides from the Web site do **not** contain all information which is given on lectures.

Laboratories : All laboratory hours will be shifted to the spring break trip to tropics (five working days, 9 am to 6 pm). 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.

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

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