

GEO 410: BIOGEOGRAPHY (3 credit hours)
FALL SEMESTER 2007
LSCB 45, THURSDAY, 6:00-8:40 PM

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Office hours: Mon. & Wed., 1:30-4:00 PM; Thurs., 5:00-6:00 PM;
or by appointment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

GEO 410 covers the spatial distributions of plants and animals and the underlying causes of those distributions. Students develop an understanding of the physical factors (climate, plate tectonics, sea level changes, glaciation, and land and sea bridges/barriers) and of the biological factors (succession, dispersal, migration, speciation, extinction, evolution, and competition) that have contributed to large-scale geographic patterns of life on earth. This course covers the above ecological concepts as needed to provide students with a basic understanding of how biological processes affect spatial distributions. It is not intended to be an advanced biology course.

COURSE CONTENT:

Weeks 1-2:	Taxonomy, variation in the physical environment, limiting factors, life forms
Weeks 3-5:	Biomes
Weeks 6-7:	Disturbance, paleogeography, climate change
Weeks 8-9:	Dispersal, colonization Exam 1
Weeks 10:	Invasive exotics, speciation, disjunctions
Weeks 11-12:	Extinction, biogeographic realms, island biogeography
Weeks 13-14:	Biodiversity, conservation
Week 15:	Student presentations

TEXT

MacDonald, G. 2003. *Biogeography: Introduction to Space, Time and Life*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

PRE-REQUISITE

Successful completion of the Introduction to Physical Geography sequence (GEO 101 and 102) or special permission from the instructor is required.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM POLICY

Students are expected to attend and to be on time for ALL classes. Your attendance grade is the number of classes you attend divided by the total number of classes. Problems should be discussed with the instructor PRIOR to missing class.

No smoking or eating is allowed during class. You are encouraged to share your ideas and opinions, and you are expected to treat your classmates and professor with courtesy and respect.

MAKEUP EXAMS

Makeup exams must be scheduled as soon as the student returns to class. Most makeup exams will be primarily discussion type questions.

EXAMS AND GRADING POLICY

Exams are mostly discussion type questions. I do NOT give multiple choice or true false exams. Most of the exam comes from the material covered in class, and it includes any text chapters indicated or readings assigned in class. Although not totally comprehensive, each exam will incorporate some questions taken directly from the previous exams.

Short paper/presentation on assigned biome	12%
Exam 1	20%
Short paper/presentation on invasive exotic	13%
Final exam	25%
Oral presentation of term paper	5%
Written term paper	15%
Attendance and participation	10%

Final grade is based on the following scale: 100 to 90 = A; 89 to 80 = B; 79 to 70 = C; 69 to 60 = D; below 60 = F.

DISABILITIES

The University of South Alabama provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify me and provide certification from Disability Services (Office of Special Student Services). The Office of Special Student Services is located in the Student Center, room 270. The phone number is (251) 460-7212. The student is responsible for contacting Special Student Services.

CHANGES

The class schedule may be changed if necessary, but students will receive at least 48 hours notice if possible.