

BIOL 330—Biogeography (4 credits)

Alexey Shipunov

Spring 2019



SYLLABUS

Class Dates : January to May 2019

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.

Learning Outcomes 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 : Mondays and Tuesdays 1–2:50 pm.

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 213

Textbook : Certain reference texts will be made 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 : \leq 400 points

Presentation : \leq 100 points

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

Tentative Course Schedule :

Week 1	Introduction
Week 2	Geography
Week 3	Earth history
Week 4	Ecology
"	1st exam
Week 5	Ecology
Week 6	Ecology
Week 7	Taxonomy
Week 8	Taxonomy
Week 9	Taxonomy
Week 10: Tropical Biology Labs	
Week 11	Biogeography of the World. Disjunctions, dispersal and vicariance
Week 12	North America
"	2nd exam
Week 13	North America
"	Lab exam
Week 14	South America
Week 15	Africa
Week 16	Holarctic II: Eurasia. Indo-Pacific region. Island biogeography
Week 17	Australian region. Biogeography of Ocean
Week 18	4th Exam

Please note that the schedule is a subject to change.

University Policies

University Sanctioned Events Policy

Minot State University has a commitment to students who represent the University in official capacities. University-sanctioned activities include events that are required or encouraged by a class, program, club, or athletic team. When a student has a scheduled absence due to a university-sanctioned activity, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with the faculty member prior to his or her absence.

Faculty members should have a procedure for student absences in each syllabus that details the method and advance time for students to communicate their absence. If a student notifies the professor in accordance with the faculty member's policy, students should be allowed to complete class work. If a student does not communicate with the faculty member in advance of the absence, it is up to the faculty member's discretion whether to allow the student to complete the work. If disputes arise with this policy within the semester, students should contact in progressive order, the faculty member, department chair, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Academic Honesty Policy with Penalty for Violating the Policy

See the information in the Undergraduate Catalog and in the Graduate Catalog; also see the Student Handbook.

Disability Statement

In coordination with the Disability Support Service, reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with disabilities (LD, Orthopedic, Hearing, Visual, Speech, Psychological, ADD/ADHD, Health Related, TBI, PTSD and Other). Please meet with the instructor during the first week of class to make arrangements. Accommodations and alternative format print materials (large print, audio, disk or Braille) are available through the Disability Support Service, located on campus in the lower level of Lura Manor, or by calling 701-858-3371 or by e-mail at evelyn.klimpel@minotstateu.edu.

Non-discrimination Statement

Minot State University subscribes to the principles and laws of the state of North Dakota and the federal government pertaining to civil rights and equal opportunity, including Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments. Minot State University policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability in the recruitment and admission of students and the employment of faculty, staff, and students, and in the operation of all college programs, activities, and services. Evidence of practices which are inconsistent with this policy should be reported using the Student Complaint and Anti-Discrimination Form located here: <https://form.jotform.com/72996849416981>.

Title IX Statement

Title IX policies help protect/assist students who have experienced sexual discrimination or violence.

In the event that you choose to write or speak about having survived sexualized violence, including rape, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, Minot State University policy requires that, as your instructor, I share this information with Lisa Dooley, Title IX coordinator. Lisa or one of the Deputy Title IX coordinators will contact you to let you know about accommodations and support services at MSU as well as options for holding accountable the person who harmed you. You are not required to speak with them.

If you do not want the Title IX coordinator notified, instead of disclosing this information to your instructor, you can speak confidentially with the following people on campus and in the community. They can connect you with support services and help explore your options now, or in the future:

- MSU Counseling Center, 701 858 3371
- 24-7 Crisis Center and Shelter: Domestic Violence Crisis Center, 701 548 2480
- 24-7 Rape Crisis Line: Domestic Violence Crisis Center, 701 857 2500
- Campus Ministry (Wellness Center, 2nd floor)