



蘇州大學
Soochow University

GEO 220 Biogeography

Summer 2023

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 55 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email:TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Biogeography is the study of the geography of life. It is a branch of geography that studies the past and present distribution of the world's many species. In this course, we will study on the history of biogeography, the pattern of distribution, and the patterns of life. Main topics will include communities, biodiversity, natural selection, evolution, human intrusion, conservation biogeography, etc. Students will also learn to explain geographic variation in the characteristics of individuals and populations of closely related species.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Develop historical understanding of biogeography;
2. Identify the typical patterns of species distributions;
3. Explain critical determinants that affect the distribution of plants and animals;
4. Gain insight into the approaches for studying the main subfields of biogeography;
5. Predict how biodiversity will respond to our rapidly changing world.

PREREQUISITES

GEO 110 Introduction to Geology

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:



ITEM	POINTS
Labs	40 Points
Midterm	25 Points
Final Exam	35 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Christopher Barry Cox, Peter D. Moore, Richard J. Ladle, *Biogeography: an ecological and evolutionary approach*, 9th Edition, John Wiley & Sons; Wiley-Blackwell, 2016.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: The History of Biogeography Topic 2: Patterns of Distribution: Finding a Home Topic 3: Limits of Distribution Topic 4: The Community Assessments: Lab 1: Patterns of Distribution
Module 2	Topics: Topic 5: The Ecosystem Topic 6: Diversity in Space and Time Topic 7: Dynamic Biodiversity and Neutral Theory Topic 8: Plate Tectonics Assessments: Lab 2: Biodiversity



Module 3	Topics: Topic 9: How Plate Tectonics affects the Living World Topic 10: Islands and Plate Tectonics Topic 11: The Mechanism of Evolution: The Genetic System Topic 12: The Theory of Island Biogeography Assessments: Midterm Lab 3: Ecosystem
Module 4	Topics: Topic 13: Building an Ecosystem Topic 14: Dispersal, Vicariance and Endemism Topic 15: Reticulate Patterns Topic 16: Zones in the Ocean and on the Seafloor Assessments: Lab 4: Evolution
Module 5	Topics: Topic 17: Early Land Life on the Moving Continents Topic 18: The Biogeographical Regions Today Topic 19: Ice and Change; Regional Distribution Topic 20: The Human Intrusion; Conservation Biogeography Assessments: Final Exam

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.



LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a



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learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.