BIO 4315
Biogeography
Fall 2018

Instructor
Dr. Ben Skipper, Cavness 118A
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Office Hours: T 1-5:00; W 7:30-9:00, 2-4:00; R 1-5:00; F 7:30-9:00; or by appointment

Course Meeting Time and Place
Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 – 10:50 PM, Cavness 123

Course Description

Biogeography is the study of the geography of life. As an inherently multidisciplinary science, biogeography draws on many fields across the physical and life sciences. In this course, you will learn about abiotic and biotic factors that shape temporal and spatial biodiversity.

Student Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course you should be able to:
1. Discuss biotic and abiotic drivers of biodiversity across spatial and temporal scales.
2. Discuss various hypotheses and theories regarding the structuring of biodiversity across temporal and spatial scales.
3. Recount the historical development of biogeography and the scientists who made major contributions.
4. Discuss biogeography using appropriate terminology.

Course Format:
This course will consist of three lectures per week with assigned readings outside of the classroom. Students enrolled in this course are expected to complete assigned readings before coming to class so that they may be active participants in the classroom. Additionally, there will be several worksheet assignments that are to be completed outside of class and turned in for credit.
Course Materials:

Required Texts
No text is required for this course. However, reading assignments will be provided by the instructor and students are required to complete the assignments.

Course Assessment:
We will have four exams (including the cumulative final) throughout the semester. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Additionally, we will have fifteen in class quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. Lastly, there will by fifteen short writing exercises throughout the semester. Each writing assignment with be valued at 10 points.

Grade Assignment:
A = ≥ 90% of points
B = 80% – 89% of points
C = 70% – 79% of points
D = 65% – 69% of points
F = ≤ 64% of points

Final Exam:
Monday, December 10, 10:30 – 12:30 PM.

Attendance Policy
Attendance is expected and strongly encouraged. Daily attendance records will be maintained. Students with approved absences will be allowed to makeup missed exams and/or quizzes. Those without approved absences will not.
Student Disability Services

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation. The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting:

Ms. Dallas A. Swafford Director of Student Disability Services

- 325-942-2047
- dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
- Houston Harte University Center

Angelo State University is committed to the safety and security of all students. If you or someone you know experience sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, or discrimination, you may contact ASU’s Title IX Coordinator:

Michelle Nicole Boone, J.D. Director of Title IX Compliance

- Michelle.boone@angelo.edu
- 325-486-6357
- Mayer Administration Building 204

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

Incomplete Grade Policy
It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

**Student Conduct Policies**

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

[Academic Integrity](#)

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#) in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft. In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).

**Copyright Policy**

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

**General Policies Related to This Course**

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)