

University of Toronto at Mississauga
Department of Geography

Biogeography

GGR305S, Summer 2015

Instructor: Namrata Shrestha
E-mail: namrata.shrestha@alum.utoronto.ca

Class: Days: Mondays and Wednesdays
Time: 04:00 pm to 06:00 pm,
Room: CC 2150

Office Hours: Day: Wednesdays (and by appointment)
Time: 03:00 pm to 04:00 pm
Room: TBD

Course Website: on portal

Course Summary

This course identifies, analyzes, and explains past and present plant and animal distributions, and the geographical and environmental constraints associated with those patterns. The course emphasizes the impact of continental drift, Quaternary climatic changes and human interference on contemporary patterns. Other topics covered include mass extinctions, biodiversity, and island biogeography theory.

Course Objectives

1. Understand biological and geographical concepts used to define and interpret the distribution of species.
2. Explore the changing spatial patterns of life.
3. Consider the impact of human activities on the diversity and distribution of other species.
4. Improve critical thinking and written communication skills.

Text Book

Biogeography: An ecological and evolutionary approach. 8th edition. Cox, C.B. and P.D. Moore. 2010. John Wiley & Sons. (ISBN 978-0-470-63794-4)

The textbook is **required** and available at the UTM bookstore.

Evaluation

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Paper Proposal	15%	Jul 15, Wed
Mid-term Test	20%	Jul 29, Wed
Paper	25%	Aug 13, Wed
Final Exam	35%	Exam Period Aug 19 to 21
Participation (in-class activities)	<u>5%</u>	
	100%	

Note regarding Communication

You are encouraged to ask questions in class and during office hours. If you would like to discuss class material further please come to my office hours. If you have a conflict with those times, please contact me to set-up a time when we can meet.

E-mail can be used to make appointments and address brief questions, but should not be viewed as an alternative to meeting with the professor during office hours. I do not check e-mail over the week-end, so please plan accordingly.

1. Always use your University of Toronto e-mail address (...@utoronto.ca) for all course-related communications. Other e-mail addresses may be filtered as spam and we do not promise to respond to them.
2. **Please include the course code (e.g., GGR305) as part of your subject line, and include your full name and student number in the body of the e-mail.**
3. **Please read the course handouts and check the course Blackboard site before e-mailing a question, to make sure that it hasn't already been answered.**

Please **e-mail professor** concerning a **lecture or assignment-related query**.

Please **e-mail Sabrina Ferrari** (sabrina.ferrari@utoronto.ca) concerning department- or program-related queries or **to submit documentation regarding a missed test**.

Important links:

- [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#)
- [UTM AccessAbility Resource Centre](#)

Other useful links:

- University of Toronto [Advice on Academic Writing](#)
- UTM Library <http://library.utm.utoronto.ca>
- Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre www.utm.utoronto.ca/asc
- UTM Exam Schedule <https://registrar.utm.utoronto.ca/student/examschedule/finalexams.php>

Department of Geography Policy Statement on in-class and missed term work

In-class Tests:

Students **CANNOT** petition to re-write a test once the test has begun. If you are feeling ill, please leave the room **before** starting your test and seek medical attention immediately. You must have a physician fill out a U of T Student Medical Certificate and submit a request via the online Special Consideration Request form @ <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest> within 24 hours.

Missed Proposal or Paper Due Date (as per Department of Geography policy)

Late assignments will be subject to a late penalty of 10% per day (including weekends) of the total marks for the assignment. Assignments submitted five calendar days beyond the due date will be assigned a grade of zero.

Academic accommodation can be made when an assignment is late or a student is unable to write a term test/quiz for University. For accommodations on extension requests please see section on **"Extension of Time"**.

Missed Mid-Term Test (as per Department of Geography policy)

In courses with final exams, there will be no re-writes or make-ups for term tests/quizzes missed for University-accepted, verifiable reasons. Instead, the final exam will be re-weighted by the value of the term test/quiz.

Informing Your Professor and Submitting Appropriate Documentation:

The following steps must be completed in order to be considered for academic accommodation for any course work such as missed tests or late assignments:

1. Students must inform their professor in writing (e-mail is acceptable) within 24 hours of a test date/assignment due date of any circumstances that prevent them from writing a test or submitting an assignment on time.
2. Students must complete an online Special Consideration Request @ <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>. Students who miss a test due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g. illness or an accident) can request that the Department grant them special consideration. You have up to one (1) week from the date of the missed test to submit your online request (late requests will NOT be considered without a "letter of explanation" as to why the request is late). You must present your case to the Department (not the Instructor). Note: The system only supports Microsoft Internet Explorer and Firefox for the time being.
3. Original supporting documentation (e.g. Verification of Student Illness or Injury form, accident report, etc) **MUST BE SUBMITTED to the DROP BOX (labeled "Environment and Geography Petition Documentation") located outside Room 3282, Davis Building**. Supporting documentation is required within 48 hours of submitting your online request.
Note: (i) ROSI declarations are not accepted as supporting documentation.

(ii) If your reason for absence is due to a last minute flight due to a family emergency (illness/death etc.) you must provide your flight itinerary INCLUDING the date the flight was purchased as well as boarding passes.

4. **Verification of Student Illness or Injury** forms MUST include the statement "This Student was unable to write the test on date(s) for medical reasons". Documentation MUST show that the physician was consulted within ONE day of the test date. A statement merely confirming a report of illness made by the student is NOT acceptable (such as, "This patient tells me that he was feeling ill on that day."). **Verification of Student Illness or Injury** forms can be found on the Office of the Registrar's webpage (<http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/getattachment/index/Verification-of-Illness-or-Injury-form-Jan-22-2013.pdf.aspx>).

Please note that the written explanation and documentation that you submit represents an appeal from you, requesting the opportunity to account for that portion of your grade in some other manner. If an appeal is not received, or if the appeal is deemed unacceptable, you will receive a grade of zero for the item you missed. If the appeal is granted – that is, your reason for missing the item is considered acceptable by the committee – then a mechanism for accounting for the grade value of the missed item will be discussed.

A Departmental committee evaluates each request. **Decisions will be communicated by email within two weeks of receipt of all completed documents.** Note: It is your responsibility to ensure your email account is working and able to receive emails. Claims that a Departmental decision was not received will NOT be considered as a reason for further consideration. Contact Sabrina Ferrari (sabrina.ferrari@utoronto.ca) Academic Counselor, should you NOT receive notification of your decision within 2 weeks of submission.

Note that holidays and pre-purchased plane tickets, family plans (unless critical, such as death of an immediate family member), your friend's wedding, lack of preparation, or too many other tests are not acceptable excuses for missing a quiz, a test, or an item of term work.

Extension of Time

Students MUST submit a request for extension in ADVANCE of the deadline in order to receive a decision.

If you require more time to complete an assignment you will be required to make your request directly to the Department by completing an on-line Special Consideration Request @ <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>. You will be required to provide supporting documentation.

Original supporting documentation (e.g. Verification of Student Illness or Injury form, accident report, etc) **MUST BE SUBMITTED to the DROP BOX (labeled "Environment and Geography Petition Documentation") located outside Room 3282, Davis Building.** Note: ROSI declarations are not accepted as supporting documentation. You are expected to submit your request to the Department before the due date of the assignment, unless demonstrably serious reasons prevent you from doing so. In the

event of an illness, if you are seeking a one-day extension, Verification of Student Illness or Injury forms must confirm that you were ill on the due date of the assignment; if you are requesting a longer extension, your documentation must specify exactly the length of the period during which you were unable to carry out your academic work. For extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through the Office of the Registrar.

<http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/index.php?id=6988>

A Departmental committee evaluates each request for an extension of time. **Decisions will be communicated by email within two weeks of receipt of all completed documents. Please note that students are required to submit their assignment/lab as soon as they are able and they should NOT wait for the decision of the committee.** Note: It is your responsibility to ensure your email account is working and able to receive emails. Claims that a Departmental decision was not received will NOT be considered as a reason for further consideration. Contact Sabrina Ferrari (sabrina.ferrari@utoronto.ca) Academic Counsellor, should you NOT receive notification of your decision within 2 weeks of submission.

It is your responsibility to follow the appropriate procedures and submit requests for special consideration on time. Failure to do so may result in the committee denying your request.

Should you require further information regarding Special Considerations, please contact the Academic Counselor,

Sabrina Ferrari

Undergraduate Academic Counselor

Room 3282, Davis Building, Telephone: 905-828-5465

email: sabrina.ferrari@utoronto.ca

Academic Integrity/Honesty or Academic Offenses:

It is your responsibility as a student at the University of Toronto to familiarize yourself with, and adhere to, both the Code of Student Conduct and the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.

This means, first and foremost, that you should read them carefully.

- The [Code of Student Conduct](#) is available from the U of T Mississauga website (Registrar > Academic Calendar > Codes and Policies) or in your print version of the Academic Calendar.
- The [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) is available from the U of T Mississauga website (Registrar > Academic Calendar > Codes and Policies) or in your print version of the Academic Calendar.

Another helpful document that you should read is [How Not to Plagiarize](#), by M. Proctor.

Accessibility:

U of T Mississauga and the AccessAbility Resource Centre are committed to the full participation of students with disabilities in all aspects of campus life. The AccessAbility Resource Centre provides academic accommodations and services to students who have a physical, sensory, or learning disability, mental health condition, acquired brain injury, or chronic health condition, be it visible or hidden. Students who have temporary disabilities (e.g., broken dominant arm) are also eligible to receive

services. All interested students must have an intake interview with an advisor to discuss their individual needs.

Students who require accommodation are advised to visit the *AccessAbility* Resource Centre as early as possible to have their needs assessed, as it may take some time to process the application.

For more information please contact the centre at:

Room 2047, South Bldg.

Tel/TTY: 905-569-4699

E-mail: access.utm@utoronto.ca

Web: www.utm.utoronto.ca/access

Note Concerning Turnitin:

Normally, students will be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their assignments to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site (www.Turnitin.com). If you have an objection to the use of Turnitin for the submission of your work, please make an appointment to speak personally with the Course Instructor to discuss alternative arrangements. A guide for students is available from the University of Toronto's Office of Teaching Advancement, at: <http://www.utoronto.ca/ota/turnitin/TurnitinGuideForStudents.pdf>. This information will also be made available on the course Blackboard site.

Policy on Religious Observances:

As noted in the the [Policy on Scheduling of Classes and Examinations and Other Accommodations for Religious Observances](#), the following provisions are included:

"It is the policy of the University of Toronto to arrange reasonable accommodation of the needs of students who observe religious holy days other than those already accommodated by ordinary scheduling and statutory holidays.

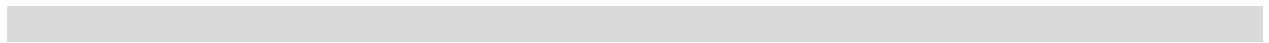
Students have a responsibility to alert members of the teaching staff in a timely fashion to upcoming religious observances and anticipated absences. Instructors will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations or other compulsory activities at these times. If compulsory activities are unavoidable, every reasonable opportunity should be given to these students to make up work that they miss, particularly in courses involving laboratory work. When the scheduling of tests or examinations cannot be avoided, students should be informed of the procedure to be followed to arrange to write at an alternate time.

It is most important that no student be seriously disadvantaged because of her or his religious observances. However, in the scheduling of academic and other activities, it is also important to ensure that the accommodation of one group does not seriously disadvantage other groups within the University community."

With respect to minimum advance notice, the Policy provides that "Students have a responsibility to alert members of the teaching staff in a timely fashion to upcoming religious observances and anticipated absences." Since students would normally be aware of upcoming religious observances as well as examination schedules in advance, a minimum of three weeks advance notice will be considered sufficient.

More information and some dates of potential relevance for the U of T community are available at www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/publicationsandpolicies/guidelines/religiousobservances.htm.

As with any academic accommodation request, students must submit an on-line Special Consideration Request @ <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>



Weekly Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading from Textbook	Assignment Due
Week 1	Jul 06	Introduction: What is Biogeography?		
	Jul 08	<i>Library Resources</i> History of Biogeography, Biodiversity	Chapter 1: Pages 1 to 24	
Week 2	Jul 13	Patterns of Biodiversity: Latitudinal gradient, Biodiversity Hotspots, Diversity in time and space	Chapter 4	
	Jul 15	Patterns of Distribution: Limiting factors, Ecological Niche	Chapter 2	Paper Proposal Due
Week 3	Jul 20	<i>In-class work-sheet</i> Species, Evolution, Extinction	Chapter 6	<i>Course Evaluations</i>
	Jul 22	<i>Writing session, Proposal comments</i> Island Biogeography	Chapter 8	
Week 4	Jul 27	Mid-term Test: Good Luck!		
	Jul 29	Past Patterns and Interpretation: Early Life, Plate Tectonics, Cladistics	(Skim Chapter 5) Chapter 10	
Week 5	Aug 05	Current Patterns: Late-Cretaceous-Tertiary Climate, Biogeographical Regions, The Great American Exchange	Chapter 11	
Week 6	Aug 10	<i>Exam Review</i> Quaternary Period, Glacial Cycles, Biogeographical Impacts, Refugia	Chapter 12	
	Aug 12	Role of Humans and Anthropocene	Chapter 13	Term Paper Due
Week 7	Aug 17	<i>In-class work-sheet</i> Exotic Invasive Species		<i>Video</i>
Aug 19 -21		Final Exam Period: Good Luck!!		