



COURSE SYLLABUS
Biogeography

Class meeting times: Mondays and Thursdays, 11:30-12:50, Main Campus, Cornett Building A125

Office Hours: Thursdays 13:00 – 15:00

Office Location: DTB B116 (or via appointment or Zoom if required)

Contact: tjessen@uvic.ca | (587) 586-5957

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an in-depth examination of the abiotic and biotic processes that shape the distribution and abundance of species. From early conceptualizations of species-habitat relationships to contemporary theories in ecology, we will explore together the interdisciplinary world of biogeography. We will begin with advanced understandings of the processes underpinning the structure and function of biological communities. With this understanding, we will then examine how human activities can change ecosystems and the species that inhabit them. Salient case studies will be provided from around the world, but a special focus will be given to Canada and British Columbia. Lectures and readings will be accompanied by small-group lab sections that will provide hands on (literally) experience with topical issues in biogeography.

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

None. Readings will be assigned for most classes and posted to Brightspace as .pdf files.

RECOMMENDED TEXT(S)

None. Some suggested readings will be provided in class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- (1) Gain a strong understanding of biogeography that recognizes the inherent interdisciplinary nature of this field.
- (2) Understand historical and current paradigms in biogeography, especially as they relate to Canada and British Columbia.
- (3) Gain a foundational understanding of the methods and techniques for biogeography.

EVALUATION

40%: Lab Sections (Please see the GEOG 274 Lab Syllabus for more details)

25%: Midterm Exam

35%: Final Exam

GRADING SYSTEM

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+ A A-	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
B+ B B-	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
C+ C	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	1	50-59%	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Geography Department website: uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/

Undergraduate Advising: geogadvising@uvic.ca

BRIGHTSPACE

<https://bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/365026>

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Lab assignments that are submitted late will be penalized 20% per day. Please see the GEOG 274 Lab Syllabus for more details.

POLICY ON ATTENDANCE

Classroom and lab attendance for this class is required. I will make significant efforts to solicit engagement during lectures, and you are encouraged to ask questions frequently. I will post only .pdf files of the lecture slides online, so being present and engaged during class time will be important. I will not post recordings of the classes online. If you miss class, please reach out to classmates for material that you missed. If you must miss several classes for exceptional reasons, please reach out to me directly. Please stay home if you are ill; I will work with you to ensure that if you miss class due to illness there are options to stay engaged.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on **cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission**, and **aiding others to cheat**. **Policy on Academic Integrity:** web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html

If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php.

ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible (uvic.ca/services/cal/). The CAL staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

POSITIVITY AND SAFETY

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing, and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environments for all its members.

SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AT UVIC

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support, please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:

Where: Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR; Sedgewick C119

Phone: 250.721.8021

Email: svpcoordinator@uvic.ca

Web: uvic.ca/svp

EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS (EQHR)

EQHR is a resource for students, staff and faculty who have experienced discrimination and harassment and are looking for informal and formal resolution options as well as advice, coaching and/or education. We are available for confidential consultations so that you can ask questions and learn your options.

eqhr01@uvic.ca

Sedgewick C Wing

www.uvic.ca/equity

RESOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The University of Victoria offers a number of resources to support international students as they pursue their studies. UVic's [International Centre for Students](#) is the primary office supporting international students on campus at the university-wide level and provides various supportive program through the [UVic Global Community Initiative](#), including a Mentorship Program and Conversation Partner Program. For academic advising-related questions, students in the Geography Department are also encouraged to meet with the Geography Undergraduate Advisor (geogadvising@uvic.ca) as well as an academic advisor in the [Academic Advising Centre](#) early in their studies to help map out a plan to declare a major and complete university program requirements. Other resources include the [Centre for Academic Communication](#) and the [Math and Stats Assistance Centre](#). International students are also encouraged to contact the International Student Liaison in Geography (Prof. CindyAnn Rose-Redwood, cindyann@uvic.ca), who can assist in making connections with other international and domestic students in the Geography Department and share opportunities for getting involved in departmental activities more broadly.

COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

A weekly calendar will be posted to Brightspace, with important dates highlighted in bold. Please also refer to the GEOG 274 Lab Syllabus for more information about the lab schedule. The first lecture will be held on January 6th and the last lecture will be held on April 3rd. Given that lecture schedules will be adjusted according to how we progress through material, the availability of guest speakers, and other circumstances, the weekly calendar is subject to change.

Important university-wide dates (i.e., last day for adding courses and the last day for withdrawing without penalty of failure) are here: <https://events.uvic.ca/dates/>

DISCLAIMER

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

WELLNESS

A note to remind you to **take care of yourself and your community**. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough and consistent patterns of sleep, maintaining important social connections, minimizing social media, and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Counselling Services - *Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.* uvic.ca/services/counselling/

Health Services - *University Health Services (UHS) provides a full-service primary health clinic for students and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.* uvic.ca/services/health/

Centre for Accessible Learning - *The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations* uvic.ca/services/cal/. *The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.*

Elders' Voices - *The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty, and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.* uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php