

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: GEOG-274-Environmental Biogeography

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: 2025W

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In-person: lecture and lab.

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

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## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

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NAME: Emrys Prussin

EMAIL: [prussine@camosun.ca](mailto:prussine@camosun.ca)

OFFICE: Fisher250C

HOURS: Mondays 10:30 – 11:30

*As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.*

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

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This course explores the nature and function of Earth's biosphere, with an emphasis on the spatial distribution of ecosystems. Major topics include ecological processes, soils, ecosystem description and classification, dispersal and evolutionary processes, historical biogeography, and mass extinctions. Lab activities will introduce methods for sampling and analyzing biogeographic data.

### PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

C in ENGL 151

C in ENGL 161

C in ENGL 163

C in ENGL 164

CO-REQUISITE(S):

EQUIVALENCIES:

#### COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

Use ecological and historical perspectives to describe the function and spatial patterns of Earth's biosphere.

Discuss human influence on the biosphere.

Collect and analyze biogeographical data in order to interpret the spatial distribution of organisms.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

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Textbook:

Pojar, J., and MacKinnon, A. 2004. Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, and Alaska. Lone Pine Publishing, Redmond, Oregon.

Lab Materials:

Lab materials will be available for download through the course website on Desire2Learn (D2L).

Additional readings:

Topic specific readings may be posted on D2L. In this case, these readings will be discussed in lecture and will be tested.

#### COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

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The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
1	Course Introduction Plant ID	
2	History of Biogeography and Ecological Review Biomes and BC Climate	
3	Environmental Controls Vegetation Assessment	
4	Niches, Community, Diversity Field Mapping	
5	Biomes and Climate of British Columbia Ecosystem Map	
6	Disturbance and Succession Exam 1	
7	READING WEEK	
8	Physiography and Soils of British Columbia Disturbance	
9	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification Field Plot	
10	Grassland and Interior Dry Forests Soils	
11	Coastal and Mountain Forests Lab write up	
12	Exam 2	
13	Article Scramble Guest Speaker	
14	SPECIES QUIZ Term Project Presentations	

## Labs

Field trips, field work, and lab exercises are mandatory components of the course. Field work and lab exercise will take place on campus as well as on field trips. Plenty of notice will be given in class so that students will have time to make arrangements for field days. You will need to bring pencil, eraser, ruler, and a calculator for lab periods.

There are nine marked labs in the course. Each lab contains exercises to familiarize students with different aspects of biogeography. All labs are due one week from the lab period, except where noted.

Teamwork is encouraged in labs. However, do not copy from each other when handing in assignments. While you may brainstorm and work together, all assignments must be written in your own words.

## Quiz

There will be one quiz based on plant species introduced throughout the course.

## Exams

There will be two exams and both will be held in class. The exams are not cumulative.

## Term Project

For this project you will form into groups of 2-3 students. I will provide each group with the start and end coordinates of a 'transect' of approximately 50-70 km in length from a particular region of British Columbia. Each group will research the geography and climate of their transect site, the biogeoclimatic zones and transitions it includes, and the abiotic and biotic factors governing the distribution of vegetation species. As a group, you will submit a typical 'consultants' report on what you discovered and give a presentation. Your report should be approximately 750 words, typed, double spaced, times 12pt font, and with 1 inch margins. This assignment is emulating what an environmental consultant would produce to summarize the biogeographical and climatic controls of a particular region.

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

## EVALUATION OF LEARNING

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DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Labs	45%
Quiz	5%
Exams	40%
Term Project	10%
	<b>TOTAL</b> 100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](#) policy for more information.

[https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1\\_14.pdf](https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1_14.pdf)

## COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

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## SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

## SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

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Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit [camosun.ca/services](https://camosun.ca/services).

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising</a>
Accessible Learning	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning</a>

Support Service	Website
Counselling	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre">camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre</a>
Career Services	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services">camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="https://camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards">camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services">camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services</a>
International Student Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/international">camosun.ca/international</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills</a>
Library	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/library">camosun.ca/services/library</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/office-student-support">camosun.ca/services/office-student-support</a>
Ombudsperson	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson">camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson</a>
Registration	<a href="https://camosun.ca/registration-records/registration">camosun.ca/registration-records/registration</a>
Technology Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/its">camosun.ca/services/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills</a>

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

## COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

### Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>  
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to

ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines:

<https://camosun.ca/cal>

### Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

### Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

### Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

### Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

### Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

### Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy:

<https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and [camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education](https://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education).

To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto:oss@camosun.ca) or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

### Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

### Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

**Changes to this Syllabus:** Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.



