

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: GEOG-274: Environmental Biogeography

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: Winter 2023

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Lecture, Lab

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̓SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Emrys Prussin

EMAIL: Prussine@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Fisher 250C

HOURS: Tuesdays 12:30 – 1:30 and Wednesdays 12:30 – 1:30

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

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):

Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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

1. Use ecological and historical perspectives to describe the function and spatial patterns of Earth's biosphere.
2. Discuss human influence on the biosphere.
3. Collect and analyze biogeographical data in order to interpret the spatial distribution of organisms.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

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

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

WEEK		LECTURE	LAB
08-Jan	1	Course Introduction	Lab 1: Plant ID
15-Jan	2	History of Biogeography and Ecological Review	Lab 2: Vegetation Assessment
22-Jan	3	Environmental Controls	Lab 3: Field Mapping
29-Jan	4	Niches, Community, Diversity	Lab 4: Biomes and BC Climate
05-Feb	5	Biomes and Climate of British Columbia	Lab 5: Ecosystem map
12-Feb	6	Physiography and soils of British Columbia Term Project Overview	EXAM I
19-Feb	7	READING BREAK - NO CLASS	READING BREAK - NO CLASS
26-Feb	8	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification	Lab 6: Soils
04-Mar	9	Grassland and Interior Dry Forests	Lab 7: Plot
11-Mar	10	Coastal Rainforests/Mountains and Northern Forests	Lab 8: Lab Report

18-Mar	11	Disturbance and Succession	Lab 9: Disturbance
25-Mar	12	Paleobiogeography	Guest - Fieldtrip
01-Apr	13	EASTER - NO CLASS	Term Project Presentations
08-Apr	14	SPECIES QUIZ	EXAM II

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.

Quizzes

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](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Labs	45%
Exams	40%
Term Project	10%
Species Quiz	5%
	TOTAL
	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](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.
<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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

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 <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising

<http://camosun.ca/advising>

Accessible Learning	http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning
Counselling	http://camosun.ca/counselling
Career Services	http://camosun.ca/coop
Financial Aid and Awards	http://camosun.ca/financialaid
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	http://camosun.ca/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	http://camosun.ca/indigenous
International Student Support	http://camosun.ca/international/
Learning Skills	http://camosun.ca/learningskills
Library	http://camosun.ca/services/library/
Office of Student Support	http://camosun.ca/oss
Ombudsperson	http://camosun.ca/ombuds
Registration	http://camosun.ca/registration
Technology Support	http://camosun.ca/its
Writing Centre	http://camosun.ca/writing-centre

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 Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/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 <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the "Attendance" section under "Registration Policies and Procedures" (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

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. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

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 or misconduct 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 and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

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 <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

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.