

	<p>School of Arts & Science SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT</p> <p>GEOG 274-001 Biogeography 2017 Fall</p>
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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 Species at Risk. Lab activities will introduce methods for sampling and analyzing biogeographic data.

The Approved Course Description is available on the web @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/geog.html>

Please note: this outline will be electronically stored for five (5) years only. It is strongly recommended students keep this outline for your records.

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Trisha Jarrett
(b)	Office Hours:	TBA
(c)	Location:	Fisher 340A
(d)	Phone:	(250) 370-3378
(e)	Email:	jarrett@camosun.bc.ca
(f)	Website:	http://online.camosun.ca/

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course students will be able to:

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

3. Required Materials

Required 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 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.

4. Course Content and Schedule

Course Schedule: Provided the first day of class

Lectures: There will be two hours of lecture per week. The lecture period will include PowerPoint slides and lecture material. Lecture notes will be available weekly from the course website on Desire2Learn (D2L). I rely on D2L for a great deal of communication throughout the course.

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. Labs are due at the beginning of the lab period, no exceptions. The penalty for assignments handed in late is 10% for the first 24 hours and 10% for each day after. Attendance during lab periods is mandatory. In the case of illness, the instructor must be contacted prior to the class time and an alternate arrangement must be made; otherwise, a mark of zero will be assigned. 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. Any students involved in copying will be given a mark of zero for that assignment.

Project Transect: For this assignment 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 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, 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.

Examinations and Quizzes: There will be two exams and both will be held in class. The exams are not cumulative. There will be one quiz based on plant species introduced throughout the course. Students who miss an exam for a valid reason must contact me within 24 hours with an explanation and supporting documentation (note from doctor or counsellor). In such cases, one makeup exam time will be scheduled, and all students needing it will be expected to attend.

Instructor Absence: In the event of instructor absence, every effort will be taken to ensure a sustained quality of instruction. I will provide as much notice as possible, but please note that this is not always possible in the case of illness. Occasionally, administrative duties may require me to be absent. In these cases, as much notice as possible will be given and suitable alternatives to our regular class meeting will be presented ahead of time (i.e. pre-recorded lectures, invited speaker, or an on-line module).

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Lab Exercises (verify weighting in D2L)	38%
Project Transect	15%
Presentations	5%
Species Quiz	4%
Midterm Exam	19%
Final Exam	19%
Total	100%

6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades:

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.