



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of Social Sciences

GEOG-274-001
Environmental Biogeography
Fall 2019

COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/geog.html>

Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.

1. Instructor Information

(a) Instructor	Emrys Prussin
(b) Office hours	Tuesdays 2:30-3:20 and Thursdays 3:30-4:20
(c) Location	Paul 334
(d) Phone	(250) 370-3288 Alternative: _____
(e) E-mail	prussine@camosun.bc.ca
(f) Website	_____

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the 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.

3. Required Materials

(a) Texts

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

(b) Other

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.

4. Course Content and Schedule

Schedule subject to change at instructor's discretion.

Week	Tuesday (Lecture)	Thursday (Lab)
02-Sep	Course Introduction	Native Plant Propagation
09-Sep	History of Biogeography and Ecological Review	Native Plant walk with Elder Earl Claxton – Field (PKOLS/Mt Douglas)
16-Sep	Environmental Controls	Lab 1: Plant ID
23-Sep	Niches, Community, Diversity	Lab 2: Vegetation Assessment – Field (Lansdowne)
30-Sep	Biomes and Climate of British Columbia	Lab 3: Field Mapping – Field (UVic)
07-Oct	Physiography and soils of British Columbia	Lab 4: Biomes and BC Climate
14-Oct	EXAM I	Lab 5: Ecosystem map
21-Oct	Term Project Overview	Lab 6: Soils – Field (Lansdowne)
28-Oct	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification	Lab 7: Plot – Field (PKOLS)
04-Nov	Grassland and Interior Dry Forests	Lab 8: Lab Report
11-Nov	Coastal Rainforests/Mountains and Northern Forests	Lab 9: Disturbance
18-Nov	Disturbance and Succession	Guest
25-Nov	Paleobiogeography	Presentations
02-Dec	Review/ SPECIES QUIZ	EXAM II

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

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Labs	40.5%
Exams	40%
Project	15%
Quiz	4.5%

(a) 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.

(b) Quizzes

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

(c) Exams

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

(d) Project Transect

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.

6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Competency Based Grading System

7. College Supports, Services and Policies



Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support

If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ <http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html> or <http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent>

College Services

Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/>

College Policies

Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence and Misconduct, Student Ancillary Fees, Student Appeals, Student Conduct, and Student Penalties and Fines.

A. GRADING SYSTEMS <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html>

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

1. 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		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

2. Competency Based Grading System (Non GPA)

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

Grade	Description
COM	The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
DST	The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
NC	The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.

B. 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 at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html> 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 are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
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.

