Winter 2018

Instr.: Dr. D. Duffus
DTB B113a

Geography 274
Biogeography

Course Objectives

This course is an introductory level science course that will help develop your understanding of the principles of biogeography. We will concentrate in the lectures on learning five to six "first principles" of biogeography, what they mean, and how they work. These will provide a foundation for further learning about why plants and animals are distributed in the manner we find them.

A second objective is to familiarize students with the scientific thinking process that is used to try and understand the complexity of the natural world. Towards the end of the course we will look at some examples of application of this sort of science in the area of wildlife research to help students develop links between theory and practice.

A third goal for this class is to provide the student with basic tools used by natural scientists in most disciplines. You will gain a basic knowledge of biology, for instance scientific nomenclature, the basic concepts of evolution and ecology as starting points for much of the course material. The lab exercises expose the students to a suite of techniques and concepts commonly used to measure the distribution of plants/animals in space.

Teaching/Learning Method

This course is a lecture and lab course. There is one weekly lecture that is reinforced in a weekly lab where the students will use various techniques linked to the principles discussed in the lecture. The lectures are significant, as it is the

only route to gaining access to material for the exams. You should come prepared to take notes using the field tested method involving a notebook and writing utensil. Much of the lab work will be undertaken out of the classroom, indeed, even outside of the buildings. The lab exercises culminate in an exercise that employs your new skills to assess campus wildlife (not including *Felicitas*, that would read wild life).

Assessment

Your level of understanding of the course material will be assessed through two exams and lab assignments. During the term, a midterm worth 30% of the final

Grading standards as noted below

Undergraduate Grading**

Passing Grades	*Description*
A+ A A-	**Exceptional, outstanding and excellent** performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student