



**University of Manitoba
Clayton Riddell Faculty
Department of Environment and Geography**

**Biogeography Course Syllabus
ENVR 4060, GEOG 4060, GEOG 7500
Winter 2017**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COURSE DETAILS	3
INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION	3
GENERAL COURSE CONTENT	4
COURSE GOALS	4
INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES – COURSE OBJECTIVES	4
USING COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL	4
RECORDING CLASS LECTURES	5
TEXTBOOK, READINGS, MATERIALS	5
COURSE TECHNOLOGY	5
CLASS COMMUNICATION	5
EXPECTATIONS: I EXPECT YOU TO	5
STUDENTS ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES	6
EXPECTATIONS: YOU CAN EXPECT ME TO	6
CLASS SCHEDULE	6
COURSE EVALUATION METHODS	8
GRADING	9
REFERENCING STYLE	9
TERM PAPER AND ORAL PRESENTATION	9
TEAM ASSIGNMENTS	10
ASSIGNMENT GRADING TIMES	10
ASSIGNMENT EXTENSION AND LATE SUBMISSION POLICY	10
SCHEDULE “A”	11

COURSE DETAILS

Course Title & Number: Biogeography - ENVR 4060, GEOG 4060, and GEOG 7500

Number of Credit Hours: 3 Credit Hours

Class Times & Days of Week: Friday 2:30 – 5:15 pm in 217 Wallace Building

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor(s) Name: Dr. Erin McCance

Office Location: 255 Wallace

Office Hours or Availability: Please email to schedule an appointment

Office Phone No. (204) 232-2941

Email: Erin.mccance@umanitoba.ca

Contact: Please contact me via email and I will return your email within 48 hours.

General Course Content

The course will consist of weekly seminar and discussion activities in which students will take an active role in presenting, examining, and questioning specific aspects of biogeography. The course will emphasize principles and approaches to understanding biogeography using the selected textbook as the basic guide. Additional background reading materials will be assigned and provided as needed. Students should prepare themselves for weekly seminars and class discussions by referring to designated chapters of the textbook and other materials of their own choosing. Teams of students will be responsible for leading approximately half of the course seminars. Weekly discussions will include consideration of 'Current Events' as related to biogeography. Students will be evaluated through class participation, seminar leadership, and a major term paper and oral presentation.

Course Goals

Biogeography is a senior-level course in the Department of Environment and Geography. The intent is to provide students with a general understanding of the current and historical components of this discipline, especially considering its ecological, analytical, and conservation aspects. The course will have a dual focus on identifying principles and concepts of the distribution of plants and animals worldwide as well as incorporating discussion on as many local (Manitoba, Canada, North America) examples as possible.

Intended Learning Outcomes – Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and participate in discussions regarding various aspects of biogeography on a broad as well as a local scale; and
2. Identify, examine, and assess the scientific literature relating to biogeography.

Using Copyrighted Material

Please respect copyright. We will use copyrighted content in this course. I have ensured that the content I use is appropriately acknowledged and is copied in accordance with copyright laws and University guidelines. Copyrighted works, including those created by me, are made available for private study and research and must not be distributed in any format without permission. Do not upload copyrighted works to a learning management system (such as UM Learn), or any website, unless an exception to the *Copyright Act* applies or written permission has been confirmed. For more information, see the University's Copyright Office website at <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/> or contact um_copyright@umanitoba.ca.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism, cheating or impersonation in the completion of assignments, and at examinations, are very serious offences. Students caught plagiarizing on assignments may be debarred from class with further risk of academic penalty and possible expulsion. All graded work must be independent.

Recording Class Lectures

Dr. Erin McCance and the University of Manitoba hold copyright over the course materials, presentations, and lectures which form part of this course. No audio or video recording of lectures or presentations is allowed in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part without permission of Dr. Erin McCance. Course materials (both paper and digital) are for the participant's private study and research.

Textbook, Readings, Materials

Required Textbook:

MacDonald, G.M. 2003. Biogeography: Space, Time and Life. John Wiley & Sons

Course Technology

It is the general University of Manitoba policy that all technology resources are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner. Student may use all technology in classroom setting only for educational purposes as approved by instructor and/or the University of Manitoba Disability Services. Students should not participate in personal direct electronic messaging / posting activities (e-mail, texting, video or voice chat, wikis, blogs, social networking (e.g. Facebook) online and offline "gaming" during scheduled class time. If student is on call (emergency) the student should switch his/her cell phone on vibrate mode and leave the classroom before using it.

Class Communication

The University requires all students to activate an official University email account. For full details of the Electronic Communication with Students please visit: [http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Electronic Communication with Students Policy - 2014 06 05.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Electronic_Communication_with_Students_Policy_-_2014_06_05.pdf)

Please note that all communication between myself and you as a student must comply with the electronic communication with student policy ([http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/electronic communication with students policy.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/electronic_communication_with_students_policy.html)). You are required to obtain and use your U of M email account for all communication between yourself and the university.

Expectations: I Expect You To

I will be in class for 10 minutes prior to and after the class time. I will treat you with respect and would appreciate the same courtesy in return. See [Respectful Work and Learning Environment Policy](#). Given this is a seminar course with 20% of your grade allocated to your participation in course lectures, you are required to attend every class. I expect you to come to class each week having read the outlined chapter in the text book and be prepared to discuss the topics outlined. You may use your computer to take notes during class. Students are expected to attend all classes and actively participate in the seminar discussions.

Academic Integrity:

In addition to the general information about academic integrity and student discipline that you provide (Schedule “A” Policies and Resources), references to specific course requirements for individual work and group work, such as:

- (i) Group projects are subject to the rules of academic dishonesty;
- (ii) Group members must ensure that a group project adheres to the principles of academic integrity.
- (iii) Students should also be made aware of any specific instructions concerning study groups and individual assignments;
- (iv) The limits of collaboration on assignments should be defined as explicitly as possible; and
- (v) All work is to be completed independently unless otherwise specified.

Students Accessibility Services

Student Accessibility Services

If you are a student with a disability, please contact SAS for academic accommodation supports and services such as note-taking, interpreting, assistive technology and exam accommodations. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g. mental illness, learning, medical, hearing, injury-related, visual) are invited to contact SAS to arrange a confidential consultation.

Student Accessibility Services <http://umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility/>

520 University Centre

204 474 7423 Student_accessibility@umanitoba.ca

Expectations: You Can Expect Me To

The lecture material covered in each class will be provided on UM Learn. Since the notes are made available to you, I expect each student to be actively involved in class discussions. I will ensure that course grade requirements are clearly articulated and repeated several times throughout the course. I will be very responsive to student emails and phone calls and will return those messages within 48 hours. Should the student wish to discuss course materials in more detail, I will arrange a time with the student to meet. I will be consistent with all of my marking and constructive feedback and I ask that in return, students meet the deadlines that are clearly defined within this syllabus.

Class Schedule

Jan. 20	Introduction Introduction to the course. Definitions, basic concepts and terms used in biogeography, main questions of biogeography, its importance to society.	Erin McCance (Chapters 1 & 2)
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Conservation biogeography. (Chapter 15)
 Discussion on how the lessons of the past can be applied in conservation — defining conservation biogeography and its importance.
 The biogeographical patterns of endangered species, species richness, and the distribution of habitats in relation to the human density patterns.
Snow Goose and Thunder Basin videos (time permitting)

- Jan. 27 **An Overview – The Influence of Humans Robert Wheeldon**
 The influence of humans including concepts of zonation, adaptation, evolution and resulting distribution. A discussion on human ethical perspectives toward wild species and how this influences their global distribution over space and time. (Chapter 11)
- Feb. 3-4 **Field Seminar Riding Mountain National Park – Aquatics, Avian, Terrestrial Mammals discussions and field activities - Manitoba Chapter of The Wildlife Society – Camp Wannakumbac**
- Feb. 3 Class seminar teams and Chapter allocation must be arranged with instructor by this date or will be assigned by instructor.
- Feb. 10 Term paper subjects should be approved by Instructor by this date.
- Feb. 10 **Field Seminar – ‘International Biogeography’ at Assiniboine Park Zoo
 Physical Processes – Chapter 3**
- Feb. 17 Discussion of the physical factors that shape life on earth including light, temperature, moisture, salinity, and their interactions.

Biological Interactions – Chapter 4
 The roles of biological processes such as predation, competition, mutualism, parasitism, and mimicry in shaping the distribution of life on Earth.

Dr. Vince Crichton, Certified Wildlife Biologist, Retired, Big Game Manager, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Effects of Predation and Parasitism on Manitoba’s Moose Population
- Feb. 24 **Study Break – No class**
- Mar. 3 **Disturbance Factors - Chapter 5**
 The roles of physical and biological disturbances such as fire, wind, floods, and pathogens in shaping the distribution of life on Earth.

Changing continents and climates – Chapter 7
 A timeline of life on Earth and including continental drift and glaciation cycles.

Dr. Patrick Nelson, North/South Consultants, Aquatic Environment Specialist –
Biogeography of fish species in Manitoba

Mar. 10 **Communities, Formations, and Biomes – Chapter 6**

The concept of biological communities. A summary of the life zones, realms, regions, and subregions of the planet.

Dispersal, Colonization, and Invasion – Chapter 8

Discussion of how species ‘move’ and how movement is hindered — concepts of dispersal, ‘temporary’ land bridges, colonization, extinction, ecological niches, and habitat barriers or filters.

Dennis Brannen, Caribou Biologist, East Side, Manitoba Conservation and Water
Stewardship – Biogeography of Caribou in Canada and Manitoba

Mar. 17 **Field Seminar – The Influence of Humans at Parkland Mews (Peregrine Falcons)**

Robert Wheeldon, Parkland Mews

Mar. 31 **Evolution, speciation, and extinction – Chapter 9**

Evolutionary theory, isolation and speciation mechanisms, founder effects, bottlenecks, adaptive radiation, evolutionary convergence, and extinction.

Description/Interpretation of Biogeographic Distributions – Chapter 13

Mapping biogeography, range size/shape, common biogeographical distribution patterns, reconstruction of evolutionary history, the phylogeographic revolution.

Dr. Erin McCance, Conservation Biology Lecture

Mar. 31 **Voluntary Withdrawal Date**

April 7 **Oral presentations**

April 14 **Good Friday – No Class**

April 21 **Oral presentations (Continued) *Term papers due**

Course Evaluation Methods

The course will be evaluated using a variety of methods to give all types of learners an opportunity to excel including essay format, presentation format, and verbal weekly participation. Goals of the course are to work with students to enhance their presentation skills as well as their writing skills.

Due Date:	Assessment Tool	Value of Final Grade
Weekly throughout term	Weekly participation and discussion	20%
Feb. & Mar., 2017	Class team seminar	30%
April 21, 2017	Term paper	30%
April 7 or April 21, 2017	Oral Presentation (on term paper)	20%

Grading

The grading scale used by the Department of Environment and Geography is:

Letter Grade	Percentage out of 100	Grade Point Range	Final Grade Point
A+	90-100	4.25-4.5	4.5
A	80-89	3.75-4.24	4.0
B+	75-79	3.25-3.74	3.5
B	70-74	2.75-3.24	3.0
C+	65-69	2.25-2.74	2.5
C	60-64	2.0-2.24	2.0
D	50-59	Less than 2.0	1.0
F	Less than 50		0

Referencing Style

Assignments should use the APA reference style as outlined in the text:

American Psychological Association. (2009). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Term Paper and Oral Presentation

Students are expected to write a term paper on the biogeography of a taxon (subspecies, species, superspecies, subgenus, genus, subfamily, or family) or specific population of their own choosing. Students must discuss the past (evolutionary history), present (current distribution patterns), and future (changes in limiting factors, threats to survival, and management issues) of their chosen taxon, paying attention to the various concepts discussed throughout the course. Term paper subjects should be discussed with and approved by the course instructor before February 10, 2017. Term papers should be in the range of 20 pages long (25 pages maximum) double spaced, using 12 pt font. This paper is due in the final class, April 21, 2017 into the dropbox available on U of M Learn.

For the term paper, students are expected to reference scientific literature, in particular peer-reviewed articles, as well as web-based sources, use APA reference style. Each student is expected to make a 15-minute oral presentation on his or her chosen topic during one of last 2 classes.

Team Assignments

One of the evaluation components for this course will be a class team seminar presentation summary of concepts from a chapter of the textbook. Students will be evaluated as part of a 2-3-person team that summarizes and presents the information for the weekly class from a textbook chapter as specified during the months of February and March in the course schedule. The evaluation will be based on presentation effectiveness, clarity, and content. Team assignment chapters and group members should be discussed with and approved by the course instructor before February 3, 2017. Each team should plan for their presentation to be completed in 25 minutes. As part of the student participation marks, each student will be asked to fill out a presentation evaluation form on the class team seminar presentations. While only the instructor and quest professional evaluations will count for the class team seminar presentation marks, the evaluations received by the other students in the class will be reviewed and their feedback considered. Contribution to team evaluations will be incorporated into the students' overall participation marks.

Assignment Grading Times

Graduate students will be expected to provide a longer, more detailed response to assignment questions, a more technical term paper, and a 25-minute oral presentation.

Students are expected to read the required sections of the textbook before class. Students are expected to attend all classes and actively participate in the course material.

Requirements for course attendance and rules regarding plagiarism may be found in the General Academic Regulations and Policy Section of the University of Manitoba Graduate and Undergraduate Calendars.

Students will not be permitted to hand in assignments late, except for documented medical or compassionate reasons.

Evaluative feedback will be provided upon request of the individual student before the voluntary withdrawal deadline date of March 31, 2017.

Assignment Extension and Late Submission Policy

Late submission Policy for Assignments, Reports and Presentations: Late submissions will be awarded an automatic "F" without permission of the instructor and supporting documentation (e.g. medical certificate) or reasons provided. Failure to hand-in one or more assignments/reports will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

Note: electronic submission is required for all assignments using the Dropbox function on the U of M Learn site.

Assignment Submissions: All assignments MUST be complete and MUST open to be considered finished. I will accept MS Word documents or PDFs.

Academic Supports: The University of Manitoba provides many services and supports to encourage good scholarship and overall health and wellness including: instruction to improve writing skills, best use practices for copyrighted materials, and supports for studying for examinations etc., personal health (both mental and physical) including: student advocacy, student counseling and health services, etc. and supports for assaults (both verbal and physical). These are designed to make each student's experience positive, safe and assist in successful completion of courses and programs of study. The University provides and encourages all members and students to maintain a respectful work and learning environment. Policies have been developed regarding threatening behavior, or assaults whether verbal or physical to support victims and discipline offenders. For more information on these see Schedule "A" found at the end of the course syllabus.

Schedule "A"

Section (a) Academic Supports

Writing and Learning Support: The Academic Learning Centre (ALC) offers services that may be helpful to you throughout your academic program. Through the ALC, you can meet with a learning specialist to discuss concerns such as time management, learning strategies, and test-taking strategies. The ALC also offers peer supported study groups called Supplemental Instruction (SI) for certain courses that students have typically found difficult. In these study groups, students have opportunities to ask questions, compare notes, discuss content, solve practice problems, and develop new study strategies in a group-learning format.

You can also meet one-to-one with a writing tutor who can give you feedback at any stage of the writing process, whether you are just beginning to work on a written assignment or already have a draft. If you are interested in meeting with a writing tutor, reserve your appointment two to three days in advance of the time you would like to meet. Also, plan to meet with a writing tutor a few days before your paper is due so that you have time to work with the tutor's feedback.

These Academic Learning Centre services are free for U of M students. For more information, please visit the Academic Learning Centre website at: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>

You can also contact the Academic Learning Centre by calling 204-480-1481 or by visiting 201 Tier Building.

University of Manitoba Libraries (UML): As the primary contact for all research needs, your liaison librarian (if they weren't recently fired by Central Administration) can play a vital role when completing academic papers and assignments. Liaisons can answer questions about

managing citations, or locating appropriate resources, and will address any other concerns you may have, regarding the research process. Liaisons can be contacted by email or phone, and are also available to meet with you in-person. A complete list of liaison librarians can be found by subject: <http://bit.ly/WcEbA1> or name: <http://bit.ly/1tJObB4>

In addition, general library assistance is provided in person at 19 University Libraries, located on both the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses, as well as in many Winnipeg hospitals. For a listing of all libraries, please consult the following: <http://bit.ly/1sXe6RA>. When working remotely, students can also receive help online, via the Ask-a-Librarian chat found on the Libraries' homepage: www.umanitoba.ca/libraries

Section (b) Mental Health

For 24/7 mental health support, contact the Mobile Crisis Service at 204-940-1781.

Student Counselling Centre: Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as individual, couple, and group counselling. Student Counselling Centre: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/> 474 University Centre S207 Medical Services (204) 474-8592

Student Support Case Management: Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team. Student Support Intake Assistant <http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html> 520 University Centre (204) 474-7423

University Health Service: Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation. University Health Service <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/> 104 University Centre, Fort Garry Campus (204) 474-8411 (Business hours or after hours/urgent calls)

Health and Wellness: Contact our Health and Wellness Educator if you are interested in information on a broad range of health topics, including physical and mental health concerns, alcohol and substance use harms, and sexual assault. Health and Wellness Educator <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health-wellness/welcome.html> Katie.Kutryk@umanitoba.ca 469 University Centre (204) 295-9032

Live Well @ UofM: For comprehensive information about the full range of health and wellness resources available on campus, visit the Live Well @ UofM site: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/livewell/index.html>

Section (c) Copyright Information

All students are required to respect copyright as per Canada's Copyright Act. Staff and students play a key role in the University's copyright compliance as we balance user rights for educational purposes with the rights of content creators from around the world. The Copyright Office provides copyright resources and support for all members of the University of Manitoba community. For more information: <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright>

Section (d) Rights and Responsibilities

Your rights and responsibilities: As a student of the University of Manitoba you have rights and responsibilities. It is important for you to know what you can expect from the University as a student and to understand what the University expects from you. Become familiar with the policies and procedures of the University and the regulations that are specific to your faculty, college or school.

The Academic Calendar <http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/academiccalendar.html> is one important source of information. View the sections University Policies and Procedures and General Academic Regulations.

While all of the information contained in these two sections is important, the following information is highlighted.

If you have questions about your grades, talk to your instructor. There is a process for term work and final grade appeals. Note that you have the right to access your final examination scripts. See the Registrar's Office website for more information including appeal deadline dates and the appeal form: <http://umanitoba.ca/registrar/>

You are expected to view the General Academic Regulation section within the Academic Calendar and specifically read the Academic Integrity regulation. Consult the course syllabus or ask your instructor for additional information about demonstrating academic integrity in your academic work. Visit the Academic Integrity Site for tools and support <http://umanitoba.ca/academicintegrity/> View the Student Academic Misconduct procedure for more information.

The University is committed to a respectful work and learning environment. You have the right to be treated with respect and you are expected to conduct yourself in an appropriate respectful manner. Policies governing behavior are included in the next section.

Section (e) Policies and Services Information

Respectful Work and Learning Environment

Student Discipline

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/student_discipline.html and,

Violent or Threatening Behaviour

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/669.html
http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html

If you experience Sexual Assault or know a member of the University community who has, it is important to know there is a policy that provides information about the supports available to those who disclose and outlines a process for reporting. The Sexual Assault policy may be found at: http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html More information and resources can be found by reviewing the Sexual Assault site <http://umanitoba.ca/student/sexual-assault/>

Intellectual Property

For information about rights and responsibilities regarding Intellectual Property view the policy: http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Intellectual_Property_Policy_-_2013_10_01.pdf

Department Policies

For information on regulations that are specific to Environment and Geography, read the section in the Academic Calendar for the Department and on: <http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/environment/departments/geography/index.html>

Contact an Academic Advisor within our faculty/college or school for questions about your academic program and regulations <http://umanitoba.ca/academic-advisors/>

Student Advocacy

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy/> 520 University Centre
204 474 7423 student_advocacy@umanitoba.ca