

**GEO/BIO 530
BIOGEOGRAPHY AND CONSERVATION**

Fall 2023
12:00 pm - 12:50 pm
MWF
Room 343 Whitehall Classroom Bldg

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Zoom office hours by appt
Go to: <https://calendly.com/jastallins/>

Home pages

Canvas

Course description

The patterns and processes that underlie ecological change, whether of human or natural origin, have long been a subject of biogeographical inquiry. Over the past several decades, biogeographers, ecologists, and other environmental scholars have accrued more detail about how patterns and processes of life vary across scales in time and space. With it has come a greater level of complexity in policy debates about conservation practices, the nature of biodiversity, and the responses of organisms and their systems of interaction to human impacts. This lecture-based course will provide students with a foundation in biogeographic concepts as they apply to current conservation and policy issues. Although biogeography spans a range of subfields, we focus on concepts from ecological biogeography relevant to an understanding of recent human-environment interactions as well as those over the past couple of centuries.

Student learning outcomes/objectives:

- Describe the different types of biogeographical practice and explain how they differ
- State the basic principles of ecological biogeography
- Explain the complexity of factors that shape biodiversity inclusive of human influences
- Exercise a literacy in biogeographical concepts as they apply to current issues and debates
- Articulate how biogeography has relevance to cultural, social, and economic domains
- Outline a history of how biogeographers and ecologists have conceptualized pattern and process

Course activities, evaluation, and grading scale

Final letter grade is based on a percentage of points you earn out of a possible 400 points.

Activity	Points (%)	A > 90%	Your final letter grade is based on the percentage of points you earn out of 400 possible points. Final letter grades will be lowered one step (A to a B, B to a C, etc) if you accrue three unexcused absences. Each additional unexcused absence decreases your letter grade another step.
Tests (4 at 100 points each)	400	B 80 – 89%	
		C 70 – 79%	
		D 60 – 69%	
		E < 60%	

COURSE ACTIVITIES

Delivery: Class is held in person. There are no Zoom options. If the university administration formally decides that circumstances warrant a campus-wide online option, only then will Zoom will be considered as a potential component of our classes.

Tests. Format will consist of definitions, short answer, and essays. None of the four tests are cumulative. The last test is given during exam week.

Participation and attendance. Attendance will be taken each class meeting. Upon the third unexcused absence, your final letter grade decreases by one step, i.e. from an A to a B. Each subsequent unexcused absence decreases your final letter grade another step.

Graduate student requirements. Graduate students will be assigned papers to read and to comment upon in class in relation to the lecture material.

Course schedule. The course schedule for the semester is appended to this syllabus. Please consult our Canvas page for the class slides and the most current information about our class.

COURSE POLICIES

Communication between teachers and students. Use this email address to contact your instructor: ja.stallins@uky.edu. Identify yourself by full name in all emails. You will receive emails from the instructors throughout the semester. Please check your UK email daily.

Attendance. Attendance will be taken each class meeting. Absences have to be announced ahead of time to receive any consideration as excused. Documentation has to be provided within one week of the absence.

In situations where a student's total excused absences exceed 1/5 (or 20%) of the required interactions for the course, the student shall have the right to request and receive a "W," or the Instructor of Record may award an "I" for the course if the student declines a "W." (Senate Rules 5.2.5.2.3.1). For this Fall 2022 course that meets on Tuesday and Thursday, that equates to seven excused absences.

Excused absences and acceptable excuses. Excused Absences: Senate Rules 5.2.5.2.1 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: significant illness, death of a family member, trips for members of student organizations sponsored by an educational unit, trips for University classes, and trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, major religious holidays, interviews for graduate/professional school or full-time employment post-graduation, and other circumstances found to fit "reasonable cause for nonattendance" by the instructor of record. Job fairs, family weddings, possession of airline tickets, and Greek events do not qualify as excused absences.

Students with chronic medical conditions that jeopardize attendance must go through UK Disability Services to have these absences documented. In other words, if you inform me you will be missing a lot of classes due to a mental or physical health condition, you will have to get this approved through UK Disability Services for these absences to be considered excused.

Documentation for funerals will require submission of the funeral announcement and/or obituary.

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays. Senate Rules 5.2.5.2.1(4) requires faculty to include any notification requirements within the syllabus. If no requirement is specified, two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable and should not be given any later.

University Health Services (UHS) recognizes the important public health and policy reasons why a sufficiently ill student ought to be absent from class and also not make a visit to UHS. UHS provides in this circumstance an "Explanatory Statement of Absence from Class" that students may complete and submit to the Instructor to document an excused absence from class. This is a UHS "Tier 1" document. The instructor will decide whether this Tier 1 document is acceptable as "appropriate verification" of the student's illness. Whether a Tier 1 excuse is acceptable will be decided in each individual circumstance, **with the final decision contingent upon the student's overall attendance record and adherence to attendance policies for the semester.**

The UHS Tier 2 document is an email sent to the student, at the student's request. The email confirms that the student made a medical visit to UHS. In order to provide the Instructor with verification of an illness, the student will forward the email from UHS to the Instructor of Record. The forwarded Tier 2 email informs the faculty member that she or he may confirm the UHS visit by emailing the identified sender of the confirming email and request that the sender verify the authenticity of the Tier 2 email sent to the student. Whether a Tier 2 excuse is acceptable will be decided in each individual circumstance, with the final decision contingent upon the student's overall attendance record and adherence to attendance policies for the semester.

The Tier 3 document emailed to students "states any applicable restrictions [on the student] based on illness or injury." Such a restriction may be that the student must be absent from class for a defined number of days. Whether a Tier 3 excuse is acceptable will be decided in each individual circumstance, with the final decision contingent upon the student's overall attendance record and adherence to attendance policies for the semester.

Tier 2 and Tier 3 University Health Service (UHS) forms for excused absences include both the date the student was seen in the clinic as well as the date the student made an appointment.

Like the Tier 1 and 2 UHS forms, notes from doctors or medical clinics documenting a visit or appointment are not automatically considered an excused absence. The final decision is contingent upon the student's overall attendance record and adherence to attendance policies for the semester.

Make-up work. All makeup work will be given during the last week of the semester. To be considered for makeup work, the absences must follow all guidelines for it to be considered excused. In addition, make-up work will be contingent upon an overall attendance performance that does not cast suspicion on the validity of prior excuses presented for an absence.

Zoom behavior policies. Please enter Zoom through your UK Zoom account (<https://uky.zoom.us/>) or through the Zoom links available in our Canvas page. Do not use a public non-UK affiliated Zoom account. Avoid the use of distracting photos and images on your Zoom account. Use your full student name, instead of nicknames, initials, first name only, phone name, or ID numbers. Full participation requires your camera to be on.

Academic integrity. All work on reading questions and tests is expected to be done independently. Per university policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the University may be imposed. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty.

All academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

Plagiarism (Senate Rules 6.3.1): When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording, or content from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work (including, but not limited to a published article, a book, a website, computer code, or a paper from a friend) without clear attribution. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be, except under specific circumstances (e.g., Writing Center review, peer review) allowed by the Instructor of Record or that person's designee. Plagiarism may also include double submission, self-plagiarism, or unauthorized resubmission of one's own work, as defined by the instructor.

Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, except where prohibited by the Instructor of Record (e.g., individual take-home exams). However, the actual work must be done by the student, and the student alone, unless collaboration is allowed by the Instructor of Record (e.g., group projects).

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain.

Cheating (Senate Rules 6.3.2): is defined by its general usage. It includes, but is not limited to, the wrongfully giving, taking, or presenting any information or material by a student with the intent of aiding himself/herself or another on any academic work which is considered in any way in the determination of the final grade. The fact that a student could not have benefitted from an action is not by itself proof that the action does not constitute cheating. Any question of definition shall be referred to the University Appeals Board.

Misuse of academic records (Senate Rules 6.3.3): Maintaining the integrity, accuracy, and appropriate privacy of student academic records is an essential administrative function of the University and a basic protection of all students. Accordingly, the actual or attempted falsification, theft, misrepresentation or other alteration or misuse of any official academic record of the University, specifically including knowingly having unauthorized access to such records or the unauthorized disclosure of information contained in such records, is a serious academic offense. As used in this context, "academic record" includes all paper and electronic versions of the partial or complete permanent academic record, all official and unofficial academic transcripts, application documents and admission credentials, and all academic record transaction documents. The minimum sanction for falsification, including the omission of information, or attempted falsification or other misuse of academic records as described in this section is suspension for one semester.

Accommodations due to disability. In accordance with federal law, if you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please inform your instructor as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in a course, you must provide your instructor with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754, via email (drc@uky.edu) or visit their website (<https://www.uky.edu/DisabilityResourceCenter/>). DRC accommodations are not retroactive and should therefore be established with the DRC as early in the semester as is feasible.

Title IV Compliance Requirements. Federal regulation mandates that federal financial aid funds (Title IV) may only be disbursed to students who are actually enrolled and engaged in coursework. This regulation mandates that institutions provide evidence of engagement early in each semester. Failure to provide evidence includes sizeable fees and fines for the university. To comply with this mandate, all instructors of undergraduate and graduate courses (including lab courses), independent studies, online courses, and research credit) will be required to confirm student attendance or engagement in classes during the two-week period following the last day to add a class.

To comply with the new Title IV regulation, faculty will be required to report students for non-attendance/nonparticipation/non-engagement through the class roster in MyUK. Once a student is marked for nonattendance/non-participation/non-engagement in the class roster, the student will be dropped from the class and from Canvas with a grade symbol "NA". If an undergraduate student drops below full-time, financial aid disbursement will be reduced. Courses dropped for non-attendance/non-participation/nonengagement will not appear on the student's transcript.

Non-discrimination and Title IX policy. In accordance with federal law, UK is committed to providing a safe learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community. The University maintains a comprehensive program which protects all members from discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. For complete information about UK's prohibition on discrimination and harassment on aspects such as race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, and sexual orientation, please see the electronic version of UK's Administrative Regulation 6:1 ("Policy on Discrimination and Harassment") (<https://www.uky.edu/reg/ar6-1>).

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in academics, employment, and all of its programs and activities. Sexual misconduct is a form of sexual harassment in which one act is severe enough to create a hostile environment based on sex and is prohibited between members of the University community and shall not be tolerated. For more details, please see the electronic version of Administrative Regulations 6:2 ("Policy and Procedures for Addressing and Resolving Allegations of Sexual Assault, Stalking, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Exploitation") (<https://www.uky.edu/regs/ar6-2>). Complaints regarding violations of University policies on discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct are handled by the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity (Institutional Equity), which is located in 13 Main Building and can be reached by phone at (859) 257-8927. You can also visit Institutional Equity's website (<https://www.uky.edu/eoo>).

Faculty members are obligated to forward any report made by a student related to discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct to the Office of Institutional Equity. Students can confidentially report alleged incidences through the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center (<https://www.uky.edu/vipcenter>), the Counseling Center (<https://www.uky.edu/counselingcenter>), or the University Health Service (<https://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/university-health-service/student-health>).

Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The University of Kentucky is committed to our core values of diversity and inclusion, mutual respect and human dignity, and a sense of community ([Governing Regulations XIV](#)). We acknowledge and respect the seen and unseen diverse identities and experiences of all members of the university community. These identities include but are not limited to those based on race, ethnicity, gender identity and expressions, ideas and perspectives, religious and cultural beliefs, sexual orientation, national origin, age, ability, and socioeconomic status. We are committed to equity and justice and providing a learning and engaging community in which every member is engaged, heard, and valued.

We strive to rectify and change behavior that is inconsistent with our principles and commitment to creating a safe, equitable, and anti-racist environment. If students encounter such behavior in a course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor of record or the College of Arts and Sciences diversity officer, [Christina Spears-Brown](#), who is charged with addressing concerns about diversity, equity, and inclusiveness. Students may also contact a faculty member within the department, program director, the director of undergraduate or graduate studies, the department chair, or the dean. To submit an official report of bias, hatred, racism, or identity-based violence, visit the Bias Incident Support Services website

Student resources. At UK, Academic Ombud Services (<https://www.uky.edu/ombud/>) is responsible for resolving academic related problems and conflicts for which established procedures have not yielded a satisfactory solution or for which no established procedure exists. Academic Ombud Services is not intended to supplant the normal processes of resolution (contacting the course instructor, department chair, director of undergraduate/graduate studies, and/or associate dean). In cases where there is a clear need to achieve a solution more quickly than normal procedures provide, the Ombud may seek to expedite the process. The two major areas of activity for Academic Ombud Services involve student academic rights and violations of academic integrity. The primary task of Academic Ombud Services is to ensure fair policies, processes, and procedures, as related in the Senate Rules, are equitably implemented. Thus, Academic Ombud Services is a neutral office working as an advocate for fairness and equity.

The instructor is required to send alerts for students who are failing the course, not attending, or exhibiting behaviors that warrant a response from UK to ensure their safety and the safety of those around them. Please visit <http://www.uky.edu/studentacademicsupport/alert-process> for an explanation of how these alerts work. Students should report any disruptive, unsafe, or threatening behaviors of others in the classroom immediately. A wide variety of resources are available to students at UK, including many that pertain to the health, well-being, and welfare of students. Please visit: <https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/student-resources>

Class recording. The University of Kentucky Student Code of Conduct defines Invasion of Privacy as using electronic or other devices to make a photographic, audio, or video record of any person without their prior knowledge or consent when such a recording is likely to cause injury or distress.

All video and audio recordings of lecturers and class meetings, provided by the instructors, are for educational use by students in this class only. They are available only through the Canvas shell for this course and are not to be copied, shared, or redistributed.

As addressed in the Student Code of Conduct, students are expected to follow appropriate university policies and maintain the security of linkblue accounts used to access recorded class materials. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not enrolled in the class, or uploaded to other online environments.

If the instructor or a University of Kentucky office plans any other uses for the recordings, beyond this class, students identifiable in the recordings will be notified to request consent prior to such use. In anticipation of such cases, students may be asked to complete an "authorization of use" form by a faculty member.

Video and audio recordings by students are not permitted during the class unless the student has received prior permission from the instructor. Any sharing, distribution, and or uploading of these recordings outside of the parameters of the class is prohibited. Students with specific recording accommodations approved by the Disability Resource Center should present their official documentation to the instructor.

Intellectual property. All content for this course, including handouts, assignments, and lectures are the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be reproduced or sold without prior permission from the instructors. A student may use the material for reasonable educational and professional purposes extending beyond this class, such as studying for a comprehensive or qualifying examination in a degree program, preparing for a professional or certification examination, or to assist in fulfilling responsibilities at a job or internship.

Prep week and reading days. Per Senate Rules 5.2.5.6, the last week of instruction of a regular semester is termed "Prep Week." These rules permit continuing into Prep Week regularly assigned graded homework that was announced in the class syllabus. Class participation and attendance grades are permitted during Prep Week. However, no written examinations, including final examinations, may be scheduled during Prep Week. No quizzes may be given during Prep Week. No project/lab practicals/paper/presentation deadlines or oral/listening examinations may fall during the Prep Week unless it was scheduled in the syllabus and the course has no final examination (or assignment that acts as a final examination) scheduled during finals week.

The Thursday and Friday of Prep Week are study days (i.e., "Reading Days"). There cannot be any required "interactions" on a Reading Day. "Interactions" include participation in an in-class or online discussion, attendance at a guest lecture, or uploading an assignment. See Senate Rules 9.1 for a more complete description of required interactions.