1. Course Information
   1.1. Classroom Location:
       Class Location and Time:
       Lecture: UC-2110 on Thursdays 9:30-11:30am
       Tutorial: UC-2110 on Thursdays 1:30-2:30pm
   1.2. Contact Information:
       Instructor: Dr. Gabor Sass
       Office: SSC 2221
       Office Hours: Thursdays 12-1pm (or by appointment)
       Phone: 661-2111 x82829
       Email: gabor.sass@uwo.ca

2. Calendar Description
   2.1. Course Description:
       Spatial distributions of plants and animals; evolutionary and environmental controls on
distributions; impacts of human settlement. 2 lecture hours, 1 laboratory hour, 0.5 course
       Antirequisite(s): none
       Prerequisite(s): 1.0 course from Geography 1100, Geography 1300A/B,
       Geography 1400F/G, Geography 1500F/G, Geography 2131A/B, Geography
       2132A/B, Geography 2133A/B, Geography 2142A/B, Geography 2152F/G,
       Geography 2153A/B, Environmental Science 1021F/G; or enrolment in the
       Major in Physical Geography.
       Prerequisite checking is the student’s responsibility
   2.2. Senate Regulations:
       Senate Regulations state, “unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special
       permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be
       deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to
       your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary
       prerequisites.”

3. Textbook and Electronic Devices
   3.1. Required text:
       1605354729 (Available as 1-day loan at Taylor Library [TAY QH84.B76 2017]).
3.2. Recommend texts:


Lecture notes and other additional material will be placed on OWL Sakai in a timely fashion, available for downloading.

3.3. iClicker Application:
This course requires that you have and bring an electronic device that can connect to the internet to class. You will use this device to download the iClicker app for activities such as attendance checking and answering questions assigned during class time. To download the app visit: https://www.iclicker.com/
Please note: this software is free for all Western students.

4. Course Objectives
The objective of Geography 2320 will be to examine how the distribution and nature of plants and animals vary over the surface of the Earth and how we can account for this variation. An important part of the course will be a discussion of The Theory of Island Biogeography, how this theory can be used to understand problems faced by animals and plants in today’s human-dominated landscapes, and what can be done to alleviate and hopefully solve these problems.

Specifically, the following topics will be addressed:
• historical and environmental controls on distributions of plants and animals;
• the Theory of Island Biogeography and its application to real-world problems;
• impacts of human activities on other organisms;
• conservation and restoration.

5. Learning Outcomes
• You will gain knowledge about the fundamental characteristics of, and processes operating in, biophysical systems.
• You will gain knowledge about the interactions between biophysical and human landscapes and environments.
• You will gain knowledge about geographical and environmental change across a range of spatial and temporal scales.
• At the end of Geography 2320, you should be able to identify, analyze, and interpret spatial patterns and relationships within natural systems.
• By completing the research assignment, you should improve your skills in independent research and written communication.

6. Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Components</th>
<th>Percentage of Course Grade</th>
<th>Assignment Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial assignments</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research assignment – annotated bibliography and research summary</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>Part 1 – Oct 24</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Part 2 – Dec 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>October 10 – in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

6.1. Attendance & Participation:

Participation is a fundamental part of the learning environment. You will need to be present in all lectures and tutorials as well as be ready to participate actively in the communal learning. There will be lots of emphasis on active learning and critical thinking. Students will get the most out of lectures by reading the material ahead of time. An individual attendance and participation grade will be awarded based on your attendance, readiness, and discussion during class activities. (10%)

6.2. Tutorial assignments:

The tutorials will be used for guest lectures, exercises, films, discussion and exam reviews. Each week there will be an individual tutorial assignment due. The objective of the tutorial assignments is to test your general understanding of the materials covered in tutorial (and in class) as well as to develop your graphing, critical thinking & analysis skills on various biogeographic topics. There will be 10 assignments each worth between 10-16 marks. The lowest two marks will be dropped and an average grade computed by equally weighing the top 8 assignments. (16%)

6.3. Research assignments:

In mid-September you will be asked to choose a topic to research for the individual research assignment. You will then hand in a preliminary bibliography with key citations for your research topic (due October 24th). You must include a statement of your research topic (what you are going to look at and why) with this preliminary reference list. The preliminary bibliography and statement of research will then be assessed and approved. The final research assignment will include a properly-referenced list of the sources you used (10 academic papers, 2 academic books, and 3 websites), an annotated bibliography of the references used for the
research and a 5-page synopsis of what you learned. It will be due during the last tutorial in the course (December 5th) and will be worth 24%. I will be happy to go over your assignment with you at any stage of preparation.

6.4. Exams:

There will be one two-hour mid-term exam (20%) and a final examination (30%) in Geography 2320. The mid-term will be held on October 10th in class. The final examination (3 hours) will be scheduled by the Registrar during the December examination period. The examinations will include questions from material covered in lectures, discussions, assigned readings, tutorial exercises and films. The final examination will include material from the entire term. The format of the examinations will be a combination of multiple choice, short and long answer type questions. No electronic devices (e.g. laptop computers, cell phones, etc.) will be allowed during an examination.

6.5. Topics covered:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>Introduction to the course; What is Biogeography?</td>
<td>Chapter 1 (3-11), Chapter 2 (13-38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Film and discussion: Darwin’s Struggle: The Evolution of the Origin of Species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Ecological Foundation: The Geographic Template</td>
<td>Chapter 3 (41-59)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Film and discussion: Planet Earth – Pole to Pole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Ecological Foundations: Distributions of Species</td>
<td>Chapter 4 (71-100)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Exercise: Coyote removal in Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Ecological Foundations: Distributions of Communities</td>
<td>Chapter 5 (101-112)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Walk along Medway creek: The Eastern Deciduous Forest Biome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 3</td>
<td>Ecological Foundations: Biomes</td>
<td>Chapter 5 (113-139)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Exercise: Biomes and their Biodiversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 10</td>
<td><strong>Mid-Term Exam in class (2 hr)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chapters 1-5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Fundamental Biogeographic Processes: Dispersal and Immigration</td>
<td>Chapter 6 (143-176)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Exercise: Seed Dispersal in Tropical Forests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 24</td>
<td>Fundamental Biogeographic Processes: Speciation and Extinction</td>
<td>Chapter 7 (177-220)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Exercise: Darwin’s finches</td>
<td>Due: Part 1 of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Readings</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>research assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 31</td>
<td>Fundamental Biogeographic Processes: The Changing Earth (Plate Tectonics and Climate Change)</td>
<td>Chapters 8 &amp; 9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Visiting Biogeographer: TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Island Biogeography</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Exercise: Biogeographic Patterns on Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Conservation Biogeography</td>
<td>Chapter 15 (605-633)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Exercise: Caribou Conservation Conundrum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>Restoration Biogeography</td>
<td>Markwith (2011); Fei et al. (2012)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Exercise: Restoring wetlands</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>Cultural Biogeography</td>
<td>Chapter 15 (589-605); Pretty et al. (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Final exam review</td>
<td>Due: Part 2 of research assignment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text.

6.6. Not meeting course deadlines:

With the exception of documented illness or family death (see below), late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 10% per day of lateness. Upon presentation of legitimate documentation, a student can hand in the assignment within 2 weeks without late penalty or the mark value for the assignment will be added to the mid-term and final examinations in an equitable manner. Missed exams will result in a grade of zero unless academic accommodation is approved by Academic Counselling (see below).

**Missed exams, tutorials, and assignment due dates because of illness or family death:**

For Western’s NEW Policy on Accommodation for Illnesses please refer to the Academic Calendar’ section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities.

**Requesting Academic Consideration**

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

(i) Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence form** provided that the conditions for submission are met;
(ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or

(iii) For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration is not normally intended for the following circumstances:

- Students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability. Students with an ongoing physical illness or mental disorder (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability are responsible, in consultation with their doctors or other health professionals, to determine if they are capable of pursuing their studies and, if so, with what accommodations. Students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability. Students with pre-existing accessibility plans arranged through SAS may not need to provide additional documentation when seeking academic consideration where such request for consideration relates to their disability and where their accessibility plans allow for coursework deferral or deadline extensions.

- Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). Students with academic or exam stress should access supports through Student Health and Wellness and Learning Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: You are responsible for your grades in this course.

7. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office within 48 hours of the scheduled exam, otherwise the instructor will assign a grade of zero.
The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

8. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

Internet enabled devices are allowed during lecture but their use should be limited to signing the iclicker attendance, answering iclicker questions, taking notes, using an internet search engine during small group work and any other instructor assigned online work.

9. Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

10. Western’s Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar’s website.

More information about “Accessibility at Western” is available.

11. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western’s Health and Wellness website for more information on mental health resources.

12. Support Services

Western’s Support Services
Student Development Centre

13. Important Dates

September 5: Classes resume
September 13: Last day to add a first term half course
October 14: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed
November 4 to November 10: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)
November 12: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty
November 30: Last day to drop a full course without penalty
December 5: Classes end
December 6 and 7: Study days
December 8-19: Examination Period