ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 2007
REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2026
COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval)**:** March 2032
Course outline form version: 29/08/2024

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: GEOG 219	**Number of Credits:** 3 Course credit policy (105)
Course Full Title: Biogeography **Course Short Title:** Biogeography	
Faculty: Faculty of Science	**Department/School:** Geoscience

Calendar Description:

Examine the geological, evolutionary, and anthropogenic causes of the geographic distribution of species. Understand the organization of species into populations, communities, ecosystems, and biomes. Explore the applications of biogeography for conservation biology, invasive species management, and agriculture.

Note: Field trips during class time will be required. Please refer to the department website for field trip scheduling information.
Note: This course is offered as GEOG 219 and BIO 219. Students may take only one of these for credit.

Prerequisites (or NONE):	Any 100-level AGRI, BIO, CHEM, ENV, GEOG, or PHYS course.
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.

Antirequisite Courses *(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)*

Former course code/number: **GEOG 317/BIO 317**

Cross-listed with: **BIO 219**

Equivalent course(s):

(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)

Typical Structure of Instructional Hours

Lecture/seminar	26
Tutorials/workshops	10
Experiential (field trip)	9
Total hours	**45**

Scheduled Laboratory Hours

Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: **No**

Course Details

Special Topics course: **No**
(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)

Directed Study course: **No**
(See policy 207 for more information.)

Grading System: **Letter grades**

Delivery Mode: **May be offered in multiple delivery modes**

Expected frequency: **Annually**

Maximum enrolment (for information only)**: 36**

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

PLAR is available for this course.

Transfer Credit *(See **bctransferguide.ca**.)*

Transfer credit already exists: **Yes**

Submit outline for (re)articulation: **No**
(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)

Department approval	**Date of meeting:**	December 2025
Faculty Council approval	**Date of meeting:**	February 6, 2026
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval	**Date of meeting:**	March 27, 2026

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

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

1. Explain how plate tectonics and natural selection are the primary basis for biogeography.
2. Describe populations, communities, ecosystems, and biomes in terms of both biotic and abiotic factors.
3. Describe the impact of geological, evolutionary, and anthropological events/activities on species distribution.
4. Articulate how Indigenous perspectives contribute to the science and application of biogeography.
5. Interpret data on the distribution of species in a habitat.
6. Communicate research results to an expert or general audience.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Final exam:	15%	Assignments:	20%	Lab work:	20%
Quizzes/tests/midterm:	25%	Field evaluation:	20%		%

Details:

Assignments include presentation (5%), participation (5%), and blogs (10%).

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Course format will include lectures, presentations, discussions, laboratory sessions and field trips

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. Open Educational Resources (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form.)*

	Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1.	Book	Cox, C.B., P.D. Moore, R.J. Ladle	Biogeography: An ecological and evolutionary approach, 10th Edition	2019
2.	Article	Service, CN, Adams, MS, Artelle, KA, Paquet, P, Grant, LV, Darimont, CT.	Indigenous knowledge and science unite to reveal spatial and temporal dimensions of distribution shift in wildlife of conservation concern. PLoS ONE 9(7): e101595. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0101595	2014
3.				
4.				
5.				

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

Laboratory and field notebook

Course Content and Topics

When offered as a lecture course with integrated hands-on activities:

1. The history of biogeography
2. Patterns and distribution
3. Communities and ecosystems
4. Patterns of biodiversity
5. Plate tectonics
6. Evolution, the source of novelty
7. Life, death, and evolution on islands
8. From evolution to patterns of life
9. Patterns in the past
10. Setting the scene for today
11. Ice and change
12. The human intrusion
13. Conservation of biogeography