

**GEOG 3420: APPLIED
BIOGEOGRAPHY**

Lisa Nagaoka
Env Science 210C or GAB 210K
Lisa.nagaoka@unt.edu
Office Hours: available by appt

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Applied Biogeography is the application of biogeographic principles for conservation and management practices. In this course we will cover the general ecological and geographic concepts that are the basis for biogeography.

The class has two components: basic knowledge development about biogeography and the application of these concepts to conservation biology, particularly urban species. While no previous knowledge is required, the class will be reading-intensive.

Course Objectives:

Students will be able to

1. Define and apply basic biogeographic concepts
2. Evaluate the application of biogeographic principles to wildlife management and species conservation

Course Website:

Assignments and readings will be available via Canvas.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Each week will focus on a specific topic. The readings and lectures are designed to complement each other. Monday classes will generally be lectures presenting basic concepts for that week's topic. Then, on Wednesday, there will often be a set of readings that include case studies.

Quizzes (7%)

The first few weeks will introduce you to the basic concepts used in biogeography. The lectures on those weeks will introduce important concepts. Following the lecture, there will be a 5-question quiz on Canvas. The quizzes will serve two purposes. You will get credit for taking good notes during lecture. And if everyone does poorly on a question, I will know that I was unclear. You will have up to two days after the lecture to take the quiz.

Perusall (43%)

Perusall is an app within Canvas where you interact with assigned videos and articles with other students. You will be required to ask questions about and discuss the content of the assigned material. You can ask your fellow students questions to help you understand the concept. Engaging with the material this way will increase understanding beyond simply reading or watching it on your own. It will also jump-start conversations about the topic in class, since you will have some knowledge going into the lecture.

Perusall is designed to record and evaluate your engagement with the material. It will identify anything that is cut and pasted into the comments section as AI-generated. The program will notify the instructor and will not count those comments into the total for that assignment's grade. You should be able to get full credit for every assignment if you follow the guidelines laid out in the first assignment.

Group Project (50%)

Students will work in small groups to research the urban biogeography of a species within the DFW metroplex. The goal of the project is to apply the biogeographic principles learned in class to understanding the distribution and the conservation or management of these species. The final output will be a story map. Group member evaluations will contribute to the project grade.

Through the semester, you will also be working on exercises where you will work with similar datasets to train you to analyze the distribution of a species and examine potential factors that could influence that distribution. These analyses can be applied to

your group project.

Attendance

Class attendance is important for understanding the content and doing well. In addition, since you are working on a group project, class time will be important for touching base with your group members. Thus, attendance will be taken daily and will be incorporated into your participation grade in the group project. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor before the class period to have an absence categorized as excused.

Late Assignments

No assignments will be accepted late without a legitimate excuse. Project assignments will be penalized 30% per day. It is better to turn in an incomplete assignment than to turn it in late or not at all.

Professional Communication

Professional communication is an important skill to develop to prepare for any career. Communication via e-mail, phone, and face-to-face meetings are more formal than texting or other social media venues that most students use to communicate with friends and families. For example, e-mails should have a clear subject line, use complete sentences, make a clear request rather than a demand, have a signature, etc. The inappropriate use of more informal styles of communication can have significant negative impacts on faculty and employer perceptions about your ability to "be professional".

DISABILITY ACCOMODATION

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodation at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: (a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; (d) dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s) (you cannot dual submit in this class from previous semesters or this semester); or (e) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. Altering a returned test and claiming a grader or scanning machine made an error is also considered cheating. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: (a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and (b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. The incident will be reported to the chair of the Department of Geography, who will handle the grievance procedure if you do not agree with the decision.

EXTRA CREDIT

The Department of Geography does not allow extra credit assignments (work not specified on a course syllabus).