

Biology2484A – Patterns in Life's Diversity 2011

Course Overview

Instructor:

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Prerequisite(s): Either Biology 1001A or 1201A and either Biology 1002B or 1202B, or either of the former Biology 1222 or 1223.

Outline:

This course considers the large-scale patterns in the Earth's biota: patterns in life's diversification and extinction, changing the biota through time; patterns in the form and functioning of the organisms, reflected in biological classification; patterns in the global distribution of life's lineages, and in their major responses to Earth's diverse climate.

Classes and tutorials:

Lectures in BGS0165, M & W 2:30-3:30

Tutorial sections as assigned at registration. Tutorials run every other week starting Sept 27th, see schedule on WebCT. Tutorial attendance is mandatory as you will be completing assignments during tutorials and submitting them at the end of the tutorial.

Course website:

Course materials will be available through WebCT. Please make sure you have Bio2484 in your list of courses on WebCT.

Texts:

Assigned readings will be posted on WebCT.

Evaluation:

Tutorial Assignments	20%
Midterm	30%
Final Exam	50%

Themes of the Course:

Patterns in Organismal Form –composition and relationships of organisms
The Biota – form and function of all living (and some extinct) organisms
Biodiversity Patterns in Time & Space – when and where organisms live
Patterns in Adaptation & Biomes –organisms' response to their environment