Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi  
Fall 2011  
COURSE:  Biology 1407.001 Biology II  
Lecture: MWF 12-12:50 PM S&T101

Instructor: Dr. Lee Smee  
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Office Hours:  M, W, F 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  

Please note that you are welcome to come by at any time, but scheduling an appointment (or calling or emailing ahead of time) will ensure that I will be available when you come by! Be sure to contact me with your new school email address (yourname@islander.tamucc.edu). I will communicate with you via this email address so you must setup this account and check it regularly.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
This course is an overview of the major concepts in biology including evolution, ecology, and the diversity of plants and animals. In the laboratory component of the course, students will work individually and in team activities. Technology-related assignments are also a part of this course.

TEXTS/SUPPLIES:  
1.  Biology, 9th ed., Campbell & Reece  
   Special note: Older versions of this text can be used in the course. Be aware however that the chapter numbers and figure references may be different.

ATTENDANCE  

Attendance is mandatory. All students are expected to attend all classes and labs. Should you miss a lecture or lab session, it is YOUR responsibility to find out what you missed, get notes, learn about changes in the syllabus, etc. There are no excused absences. A missed grade will result in a score of ‘0’ for that assignment. Additionally, routinely being tardy to class is inconsiderate to me and to your classmates. Repeated lateness can result in dismissal from class. Additionally, quizzes can be given at the beginning of lecture so it is imperative to arrive on time. On time means being in your seat and being prepared to take notes, quizzes, or exams promptly at the starting time. As with absences, missing a grade due to lateness or leaving class early will result in a grade of ‘0’ for that assignment.

Bring your university picture ID to all lecture exams. A lecture examination may contain questions in the following format: multiple choice, true/false, making drawings, labeling drawings, listing, filling in charts, short answer questions, and essay questions. An examination lasts approximately one hour. Practicals are timed laboratory exams and have short answer questions. No student is admitted to an exam after the first exam-taker has left.
Students with a university approved scheduled absence (athletics, military duty, etc.) MUST contact the lecture and lab instructor well in advance of a scheduled absence. Exams may be taken early in those specific cases. Students who do not arrange to take exams ahead of time will not be eligible for this special consideration and will receive a ‘0’ for a missed assignment. A written excuse from the university department involved is required.

GRADE COMPUTATION:
Laboratory average (reports, quizzes, practicals, etc.) .......................... 1/4 of course grade
Lecture average ................................................................. 3/4 of course grade

The lecture average will be determined on a 500 point scale:

- 3 lecture exams (100 points each) .................................................. 300
- Comprehensive final exam* .......................................................... 100
- Random Quizzes ........................................................................... 100
- Total ......................................................................................... 500

*Forgiveness final policy – I will replace your lowest exam score with your final exam grade should the final exam grade be higher.

** We will take ~15 quizzes in the course. I will use your best 10 quizzes for the quiz points.
*** Any student that takes all quizzes during the semester or that has only one missed quiz will receive 3 bonus points onto their final average!! There are no excused absences for this policy!

GRADING SCALE: 90.0 – 100.0 = A
  80.0 –  89.9 = B
  70.0 -  79.9 = C
  60.0 –  69.9 = D
  0.0 -  59.9 = F

NOTE: The grading scale is NOT subject to discussion. In other words, begging for points or last minute extra credit will get you nowhere. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS EXTRA CREDIT. There are ample opportunities for improving your grade through the course. End of the semester miracles are rare. Start from the very first day with a good attitude:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are expected to conform to college level standards of ethics, academic integrity, grammar and spelling; review the appropriate pages of the TAMU-CC catalog and TAMU-CC student handbook. Failure to comply with these rules will result in dismissal from the course.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY (CHEATING)

Cheating in any form will absolutely not be tolerated. This includes asking for or providing help on an exam or quiz, plagiarism, or basically doing anything that substitutes one person’s work for another’s. Cases of academic dishonesty will be dealt with severely. Students caught cheating will receive a grade of ‘F’ for the course and the offense will be reported to the student affairs office.
TUTORING AND TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES:

To be successful in this course, and most others, you must develop good note-taking skills, organization skills, study habits, and test-taking strategies from the very beginning. Your lecture and lab instructors are always available for help, but don’t wait until it’s too late! It is important that you are aware that the Tutoring and Learning Center in Room 216 of the library (825-5933) provides free tutoring, test-taking strategies, and extra help. **Take advantage of this service!** The center has copies of the text and CD-ROM and is an invaluable source for help. In addition, tutors may be set up for this class specifically and a schedule with times and location will be placed on the website at the beginning of the semester. If you have test anxiety, stress problems, or need help with study skills, the University Counseling Center (University Center, 825-2703) also provides a free service.

DISABILITY AND VETERANS’ SERVICES

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to providing persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to access campus facilities, resources and programs. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Support and accommodations are also available for returning veterans who experience cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus. Our Office of Disability Services arranges such support and academic accommodations. To make a request, or for more information, call (361) 825-5816 or visit Driftwood 101. It is important to contact the Office of Disability Services in a timely fashion as it will take time for them to review requests and prepare accommodations and accommodation letters.

GRADE APPEALS

As stated in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi University Rules and Procedures (Section B [Academic Program], Part 13 [Students]: 13.02.99.C2 [Student Grade Appeals] and 13.02.99.C2.01 [Student Grade Appeal Procedures]), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is on the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, consult the University Rules and Procedures specified above (accessible through the University Rules and Procedures website at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html)). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

INSTRUCTORS NOTE

In choosing to take this course, you are agreeing to abide by the course rules, regulations, and standards. Should you have concerns or questions, you are to discuss
them with the instructor as soon as possible. However, you are bound by these rules, regulations and standards from the first day of class throughout the duration of the course. Failure to comply with course rules or showing disrespect toward me or other classmates will result in removal from the course.

**General Disclaimer:**

The Instructor reserves the right to modify the schedules and policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. Such changes will be announced during regularly scheduled lecture or laboratory periods, but no attempt will be made to contact students who were absent when an announcement was made. Students are responsible for abiding by all announced changes, and it is a student’s responsibility to obtain this information.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The student will gain skills in the use of technological advances in computing such as the use of:
- electronic mail (listserv) as a communication device
- worldwide web as an information retrieval source

The student will be introduced to universal biological concepts such as:
- methods of scientific inquiry
- homeostasis as the basis for growth and metabolism
- evidence of biological change over time
- structure and function of microorganisms
- structure and function of plants and animals

The student will investigate the multiple effects of humans on other species and the environment such as:
- population growth
- environmental pollution
- urban growth and industrialization
- infection and disease
- farming and animal breeding

The student will begin acquiring professional scientific skills, such as:
- inquiry-based laboratory techniques
- technical writing ability
- scientific presentation skills

**Skills Development:** This course requires the use of the internet (email, listserv, and worldwide web) to foster the technological abilities of the student. All students are expected to subscribe to the course listserv, a course email distribution system, described above.

Communication skills are improved through the development of both oral and written skills. Students will be introduced to appropriate scientific communication skills through technical writing and scientific presentation exercises. Students will have the opportunity to perfect their ability to convey concepts by learning to represent information in illustrations, charts, and graphs.
University Core Curriculum Program Skills Enhancement

Critical Thinking skills will be enhanced by
- Exploring the scientific method and its ramifications.
- Analyzing results obtained in laboratory experiments.
- Evaluating scientific literature.

Mathematical competency skills will be enhanced by
- Learning to convert data into tables, charts, and graphs.
- Beginning to evaluate data statistically.

Reading/Writing skills will be enhanced by
- Synthesizing lecture information with the reading assignments.
- Extracting information from the world wide web.

Listening/Speaking skills will be enhanced by
- Improving note taking ability.
- Extracting information presented during in-class videos.

COMPUTER ACCESS

Use of the computer is a major part of this course. This will include use of email, listserv, worldwide web, power point and various other programs. In addition, you are required to subscribe to the class listserv and opportunities listserv as directed on the first page of this syllabus. Computers are available for student use in twelve computer labs around campus. The campus Computer Lab is located in Corpus Christi Hall – Room 200 – and contains one hundred (100) computers for student use. This lab is staffed with help personnel and has very generous operating hours. Each student has a computer account set up by the university that is available from the first day of class. Call the computer help line at x2825 for more information.

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Exam Dates

Exam 1  Evolution  Wednesday September 22\textsuperscript{nd}
Exam 2  Diversity of Life  Wednesday October 20\textsuperscript{th}
Exam 3  Ecology  Monday November 22\textsuperscript{nd}
Exam 4 (Final)  Organismal Form and Function  Monday December 13\textsuperscript{th} @ 11 AM

***NOTE***

BARRING A NATURAL DISASTER, THE EXAM DATES WILL NOT CHANGE. PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

Proposed Schedule (Topics may vary)

24-Aug  Intro to Life
26-Aug  Scientific Methodology
29-Aug  History of Evolution
31-Sep  Evidence for Evolution
  2-Sep  Evidence for Evolution
  7-Sep  labor day
  9-Sep  HW Equilibrium
12-Sep  HW Equilibrium
14-Sep  HW Equilibrium
16-Sep  Speciation
19-Sep  Speciation
21-Sep  Review
23-Sep  EXAM I
26-Sep  Animal Classifications/Nomenclature
28-Sep  Viruses
30-Sep  Bacteria
  2-Oct  Immune System/Medical Treatment
  4-Oct  Protista
  6-Oct  Plants/Fungi
  8-Oct  Vertebrate Classes
11-Oct  Vertebrate Hearts
13-Oct  Digestive Systems in Animals
15-Oct  Nervous System
18-Oct  Review
20-Oct  EXAM II
22-Oct  Biomes
25-Oct  Population Ecology
27-Oct  Population Growth
29-Oct  Community Ecology
  1-Nov  Community Ecology
  3-Nov  Community Ecology
  5-Nov  Coevolution/Herbivory
8-Nov  Coevolution/Herbivory
10-Nov  Ecosystem Ecology
12-Nov  Ecosystem Ecology
15-Nov  Energy Flow
17-Nov  Conservation
19-Nov  Review
22-Nov  EXAM III
24-Nov  Plant Physiology
26-Nov  Thanksgiving Holiday
29-Nov  Plant Physiology
 1-Dec  Animal Physiology
 3-Dec  Animal Physiology
 6-Dec  Review
13-Dec  FINAL EXAM