TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – CORPUS CHRISTI
BIOL 4319 – Marine Mammals

SYLLABUS

Spring 2012
CI 102
MWF 10-10:50

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Learning Outcomes:
1) Students will be familiar with the marine mammal group collectively, including the biology, ecology, evolutionary history and taxonomy.

2) Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct a literature survey of an approved marine mammal topic and produce a scientific paper.

Course Requirements:
Students will take two lecture exams and prepare and submit a research paper and bibliography on an approved marine mammal topic.

Grading:
Final grades will be calculated using the research paper and two exams. The exams (2) will each constitute 1/3 of the final grade. The research paper will comprise the remaining 1/3 of the final grade.

Texts:
The TAMU-CC library and the UTMSI Port Aransas library will have the literature necessary for the research paper. You may acquire them from other sources as well.

No texts are required for the class, however, books will be placed in the University library.

Selected Reading:
A selected reading list will be provided. These readings are from books on reserve in the University library.
Tentative Schedule (by week):

Jan.  11  Syllabus, discuss research paper topics  
       16  continued…
       23  General vertebrate evolution and natural history; taxonomic overview of the marine mammal group  
       30  continued. . .

Feb.  6  Order Cetacea – natural histories of the two Suborders and selected families (Mysticeti, Odonticeti)  
       13  continued…
       20  continued. . .
       27  continued. . .

Mar.  5  continued. . . (Exam I will be given when all lecture material has been given for the cetaceans and the date of the exam will be announced at least one week in advance.)  
       12-16  SPRING BREAK!!
       19  Order: Carnivora, SubOrder: Pinnipedia – natural histories of the Otariidae, Phocidae, and Odobenidae  
       26  continued. . .

Apr.  2  continued…
       9  Suborder Fissipedia – natural histories of the two families (Mustelidae, Ursidae); Order: Sirenia – discussion of the two families  
       16  Exploitation of marine mammals; conservation; the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network (Linda May)  
       23  continued; Exam II (to be given when all material has been given for the Orders: Carnivora and Sirenia)  
       30  Class: Reptilia, Orders: Squamata, Chelonia, and Crocodilia (yep, these aren’t marine mammals but thought I’d introduce you to them as you probably won’t have another opportunity!). SUBMIT MARINE MAMMAL PAPERS !!!
May  1    Last Class Day