Instructor: Dr. Kirk Cammarata  
Email: kirk.cammarata@tamucc.edu  
Phone: x2468 or 825-2468  
Office: EN (S&T) 319 B  
Office Hours: T, R 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM; W 5:00 – 6:00 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 (youremail@islander.tamucc.edu). I can only use official school email addresses when communicating with you on class issues. Be sure to signup for the course listserv (see below) using this email address.

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, and there may be issues accessing certain media available for the newer versions of the text.

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.

**LATE WORK will not be accepted, except as below, or unless otherwise specified.**
Attendance is the student’s responsibility. You are responsible for the material covered in every lecture, even if it is not in the book, regardless of your attendance. Nothing missed during an unexcused absence can be made up. An excused absence allows us to make alternative arrangements to complete an assignment. **Only unavoidable absences are excused.** Routine events (holiday travel, non-emergency medical visits, parent-teacher conferences, household or auto repairs) should be scheduled to avoid conflicts with class. An acceptable excuse must be:
• from an appropriate source (doctor, dentist, funeral director) stating the nature of the event
• In writing, on official letterhead, and signed (it will not be returned)
• presented prior to, or within 1 week of, the absence
• It must state the dates for which the excuse applies

There are No make-up examinations: For some scheduled events, you may arrange to take a lecture exam before, but not after, its scheduled time. Quizzes cannot be made-up.

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

The lecture average will tentatively be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 lecture exams (100 points each)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Random Quizzes; Other Assignments</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRADING SCALE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90.0 – 100.0</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.0 – 89.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.0 - 79.9</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.0 – 69.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0 - 59.9</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The time schedule may require adjustment. Should this be the case, the assignments and weighting may change slightly. Additional assignments may or may not be provided at the Instructor’s discretion. Such assignments might include homeworks, group projects, reading assignments, quizzes, seminar attendance, etc. **Regardless of any such changes, the lecture and laboratory weighting of your grade shall remain at 75% and 25%, respectively.**
For example, if you make 90% of total points available for the lecture and 80% of total points available for the laboratory portion, then your grade would be calculated as:

\[(0.9 \times 75) + (0.8 \times 25) = (67.5) + (20) = 87.5/100 \text{ possible} = B\]

An assignment will likely be due during the last week of class.

Every attempt will be made to follow the time and evaluation schedules shown here. It is the student’s duty to attend each class session, read messages from the Listserv and to be aware of all assignments, deadlines, changes.

NOTE: The grading scale is NOT subject to discussion. In other words, begging for points or last minute extra credit will get you nowhere. Assure yourself a good grade through good preparation throughout 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. Unless specified otherwise, assignments must be turned in individually and be written in your own words, NOT COPIED. An assignment grade of ZERO will be given if the work is not in your own words.

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.

BlackBoard: Course-associated site for posting notes, readings, assignments, etc.

Course Listserv: All students must subscribe to the class listserv, using your official University-mandated email account (firstinitiallastname@islander.tamucc.edu). You may ask questions of interest to the instructor or other students on the class listserv, eg. clarification of an assignment, as well as receive important class announcements. You are encouraged to subscribe to the Opportunities Listserv as well.

To subscribe, send an e-mail to “Bio2-list-request@Listserv.tamucc.edu”. Make sure that your e-mail address appears in the “From:” heading, and that the word “subscribe” is typed in the subject line. You will receive a subscription acknowledgement confirming that you have done everything correctly. To post messages to the listserv, send to “Bio2-list@Listserv.tamucc.edu”. Because of security concerns, you should post messages from the official TAMUCC computer account (Islander) that is used to subscribe to the listserv. At the end of class, please send an e-mail to “Bio2-list-request@Listserv.tamucc.edu” with “unsubscribe” in the subject heading. Please use this service to ask questions about class materials, dates, assignments, etc.
You should also subscribe to the Opportunities Listserv using the same procedure: “opportunities-list-request@Listserv.tamucc.edu” This service provides notification of scholarships, research and volunteer opportunities and science-related job opportunities.

Expectations:

You are responsible for your own education. Take notes in class as some new information may be presented. Lecture notes from the instructor, when made available, do not represent everything you need to know. Read the book and handouts for further detail not covered in class, and to be prepared for laboratory. If you don’t understand, then please ask, or see the instructor after class. Don’t allow yourself to fall behind. Be diligent and thorough on written assignments and examination answers. If you are not sure of an answer, at least try. For many people, putting anything down on paper clarifies their thinking and helps with recall. Also:

- Be aware of university-imposed deadlines (ie drop dates)
- Be aware of test times and dates, including changes which may be announced in class
- Check your exams for clerical errors. The test score is not the end of the learning process.
- Review tests to determine why you missed an answer. Correcting your mistakes is an effective way to learn material (reflective learning).
- Work on all assigned homework problems in a timely manner. Seek tutorial help from classmates or the course/laboratory Instructors.
- Keep track of your progress in class.

The following procedures will be enforced:

- All major exams are the property of the instructor and may not be removed from class, copied, reproduced or photographed unless specifically permitted by the instructor. Violation will result in a grade of “F”
- You must be prepared to present a photo ID at all examinations
- If you leave an examination room—for any reason—you must hand in your test and you will not be allowed to resume the examination. Attend to personal matters (e.g., rest room visits) before the examination.

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Usage Policy on Disruptive Behavior:

As adult university students, you are expected to act with courtesy and common sense. Disruptive, disrespectful, or abusive language/behavior towards anyone in class (student, staff, faculty) will not be tolerated and could result in permanent removal from class. This includes tardiness to class, talking in class, insubordination, and electronic disturbances (cell phones, ipods, etc). Turn it off. Hazardous materials are used in the laboratory so “play” or reckless behavior will not be allowed. Children are not allowed in class or lab.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in appropriate action at the discretion of the instructor, including failure of the course. Everything should be in your own words.
Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Be aware of the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Preferred methods of scholarly citations (Format from J. Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology)

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 the Glasscock Center (825-5933) provides free tutoring, test-taking strategies, and extra help. Take advantage of this service! Supplemental Instruction and tutors may be available as well. The center has copies of the text and CD-ROM and is an invaluable source for help. A schedule with times and location will be placed on the BlackBoard 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 13.02.99C2.01 [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). 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, grading and policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. Such changes will be announced during regularly scheduled lecture or laboratory periods, or via the course Listserv, 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 and energetics as the basis for growth and metabolism
- evidence of biological change over time
- examples of structure and function of microorganisms
- examples of structure and function of plants and animals

The student will investigate the multiple effects of humans on other species and the environment:

- 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.

Exam Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Friday Sept 21st</td>
<td>Chaps 22-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Friday Oct 26th</td>
<td>Chaps 25-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>Wednesday Nov 21st</td>
<td>Chaps 31-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 4 (Final)</td>
<td>Monday December 10th @ 11 AM</td>
<td>Chaps 40, 42, 52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tentative Syllabus
(course schedule may change)

Wk1: Aug 22, 24  Intro to Life; Scientific Methodology
Wk 2: Aug 27, 29, 31  **Unit 4 Evolution:** History of Evolution; Evidence for Evolution (Ch 22)
Wk 3: Sep 5, 7  Evolution of Populations, Hardy-Weinberg (Ch 23)
Wk 4: Sep 10, 12, 14  Speciation (Ch 24)
Wk 5: Sep 17, 19, 21  History of Life on Earth (Ch 25); **EXAM I**
Wk 6: Sep 24, 26, 28  History of Life on Earth (Ch 25); Exam Review
Wk 7: Oct 1, 3, 5  History of Life on Earth (Ch 25); **Unit 5 Biological Diversity:** Phylogeny & Classification (Ch 26)
Wk 8: Oct 8, 10, 12  Bacteria & Archea (Ch 27)
Wk 9: Oct 15, 17, 19  Protists (Ch 28); Plant Diversity I (Ch 29)
Wk 10: Oct 22, 24, 26  Plant Diversity II (Ch 30); Review; **EXAM II**
Wk 11: Oct 29, 31; Nov 2  Fungi (Ch 31); Overview of Animal Diversity (Ch 32)
Wk 12: Nov 5, 7, 9  Overview of Animal Diversity (Ch 32); Intro to Inverts (Ch 33)
Wk 13: Nov 12, 14, 16  Vertebrates (Ch 34); **Unit 7: Animal Form and Function:** Principles of Animal Form & Function (Ch 40)
Wk 14: Nov 19, 21  Principles of Animal Form & Function (Ch 40); **EXAM III**
Wk 15: Nov 26, 28, 30  Circulation & Gas Exchange (Ch 42); **Unit 8: Ecology:** Intro to Ecology (Ch 52)
Wk 16: Dec 3  Intro to Ecology (Ch 52)
Wk 17: Dec 10  **FINAL EXAM IV**