Course Syllabus

BIOL 2371 “Principles of Evolution”
Fall 2012

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Bart Cook
OFFICE: EN 309
PHONE: 825-2683
EMAIL: bart.cook@tamucc.edu

OFFICE HOURS 7:00-8:00am MWF; 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. F or by appointments; (See office door for sign-up)

COURSE MEETING TIME: 9:00-9:50 am MWF Engineering Building (ST) 101

LECTURE TEXT: Kardong, Kenneth, 2008 2nd Edition
An Introduction to Biological Evolution, McGraw Hill, Boston

COURSE GRADE:

There will be three (3) lecture exams, equally weighted during the semester. The Mean (-x) of the two highest lecture test scores represent the students course grade. All three (3) exams must be taken.

In general, there will be no make up exams. The only exceptions are make up lecture exams based on prior approval of the instructor with a stipulated date for the make up exam. The exceptions will be made only for students whose exams were in direct conflict with a University sanctioned activity.

GRADING SYSTEM: *

The following grade scale will be used in determining the course grade:

A= 90-100 %
B= 80-90 %
C= 70-80 %
D= 60-70 %
F= 0 – 60 %

*At the discretion of the instructor, “curve points” may be added to the student’s final overall class average. If “curve points” are given, each and every student will receive the same number of points. No extra credit work is permitted.
COURSE OVERVIEW, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Principles of Evolution (BIOL 2371) is a lower division lecture course that examines aspects of organismal evolution placing particular emphasis on adaptation, diversity, speciation, selection, variation, and philosophy. Upon completion of the course, students will be expected to:

- Understand the history and development of the “modern evolutionary synthesis”
- Describe different modes and tempos of evolutionary change.
- Explain how the random, heritable variation occurs in organisms.
- Discuss how population genetics is the basis for treating evolution quantitatively.
- Explain how organisms adapt to different (and changing) environments.
- Use examples to illustrate basic trends in evolution (e.g., extinction, ecological release, competitive exclusion, gradualism, punctuated equilibrium).
- Discuss the relationship between evolution, systematics, and development.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Every Student is urged to keep abreast of and all opportunities about scholarships, internships, and research opportunities:

To subscribe to this information listserve:

1. Send an e-mail message to:
   opportunities-list-request@sci.tamucc.edu
2. In the subject field above, type: Subscribe

The Physical and Life Sciences Program complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.) please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (located in 116 Corpus Christi Hall) at 825-5816. It is important that you contact them in a timely fashion as it may take several days to review requests and prepare accommodations.

DROP DATE: Nov. 2, 2012

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 reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.
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Disability and Veteran 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 American 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) 825-581 or visit the office in Corpus Christi Hall 116. 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], Pat 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 http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/universiry rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may, contact the Office of Student Affairs.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: The University catalog contains the university statement on academic integrity. It is essential that anyone considering a health career demonstrate honesty and integrity in their academic and professional life. Therefore, cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade in the course and possible further disciplinary action by the university.