Instructors: Lee Smee and Keith Johnson
Email: lee.smee@tamucc.edu  keith.johnson@tamucc.edu
Office: TBA
Office Hours:  M, W 11:00 – 12:00 PM
Please note that you are welcome to come by at any time, but scheduling an appointment by
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 addresses (yourname@islander.tamucc.edu). I will
communicate with you via this email so you must setup this account and check it regularly. I
cannot send grades or any confidential information to non TAMU-CC email addresses.

TEXTS BOOK

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Introduction to the interrelationships of organisms and their environment. Population
structure, community classification and regulation, and energy flow in ecosystems will also be
covered. Laboratory sections will focus on experimental design and field techniques in ecology.
Prerequisites: BIOL 1406 with a grade of “C” or above and BIOL 1407.

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. 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 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. Each
examination lasts approximately one hour. 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. A written excuse from the university
department involved is required.
PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES (BESIDES LAPTOPS)!!

GRADING SCALE:
> 900 pts = A
800 – 899 pts = B
700 – 799 pts = C
600 – 699 pts = D
< 600 pts = F

GRADE COMPUTATION:
Laboratory Points 400
Independent Project Assignments (2 @ 50 pts each) 100
Lecture Exams (2 @ 150 pts each) 300
Comprehensive Final Exam 200
Total 1000

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

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.

ACADEMIC ADVISING:
As soon as students are ready to declare a major, they should meet with an Academic Advisor. The Academic Advisor will guide the student through the requirements of the major, including developing and maintaining the student’s degree plan and directing the student to an appropriate Faculty Mentor. Academic Advisors for the College of Science & Technology are located in the Faculty Center, room 178, (361) 825-6094.

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.

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.

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.

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

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project 1</td>
<td>Wednesday February 8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Lecture Exam</td>
<td>Wednesday February 15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Lecture Exam</td>
<td>Monday March 26th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trip (not mandatory)</td>
<td>April 5th – April 8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 2</td>
<td>Wednesday April 18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Monday May 7th 8:00-10:30am</td>
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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 ecological and scientific concepts such as:
- methods of scientific inquiry
- interplay between evolution, ecology, and other scientific fields
- evidence of biological change over time
- factors that act to structure communities

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
- general conservation practices and implementation

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.

Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Distribution of Organisms (Transplant Experiments)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>MLK DAY no class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Population Growth Parameters (Life Tables)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>Population Growth Parameters (Life Tables)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>Limitations on Population Growth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Interspecific Competition and the Niche</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>Interspecific Competition and the Niche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>Predator - Prey Interactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>Predator - Prey Interactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>Practical Applications I Harvesting Populations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>