TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Spring 2013

SYLLABUS

CATALOG: Biol: 4422

I. COURSE: BIOL 4422 - Plant Taxonomy
MWF 11-11:50
Laboratory: M 1-4
4 semester hours (3:3)
TBD
Room CS 240

II. FACULTY: Dr. Roy L. Lehman
Phone: 825-5819
Office Hours: MWF 10-11
CS 247
Additional Hours by Appointment.
MW 8-9

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Basic principles, concepts, and practice in the systematics and classification of flowering
plants. Includes procedures of identification, family recognition, terminology, nomenclature,
herbarium techniques, systems of classification and the taxonomic literature.

IV. TEXTBOOK:
Required:
   University Press, College Station, Texas. 352 pp.
   reprinted. 303 pp. ISBN: 1 900347 43 1

Recommended:

COLLECTION SUPPLIES:
Field Book & Pen
Gloves – thorn proof
Collection Bags/Polythene and/or cloth
Small Shovel/trowel
Plant Press with newspaper & cardboard
Magnifying Glass
Small Metric Ruler
Pocket Knife
Waxed Paper
Pruning Shears

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V. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will:

* identify the basic activities of systematic botany including Cataloging, Identification, Classification, Data Gathering and Analysis.
* become proficient in the correct pronunciation of scientific names.
* differentiate between common names and scientific names of plants.
* evaluate and describe the botanical nomenclature of scientific names of plants and discuss and explain the rules of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature.
* identify structures and terminology used in the identification of plants.
* properly construct and use keys for the identification of plants.
* collect and preserve plants for study.
* complete a survey of vascular plants
* describe the different approaches to the classification of plants
* explain how character variation and experimental plant systematics have combined to form a modern technology for the interpretation of characters and the classification of plants.

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA:

Evaluation is ongoing to enhance experimental learning, providing the student with feedback about performance in meeting the course objectives. Conferences with the faculty provide opportunities to discuss progress toward the course objectives. Grading is a process of measuring the outcome of learning against standards and assigning a symbol to the level of performance achieved.

All students are expected to conform to college-level standards of ethics, academic integrity, grammar and spelling. In particular, you should review pages 24-41 of the 2009-2010 A&M-CC undergraduate catalog. Except in cases where prior arrangements have been made with the instructor, there is no provision for making up late work and/or missed quizzes or exams. All excuses MUST be recorded with the professor by e-mailing information including the student’s name, class, date, time and reason for the absence.

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.
VII. COMPONENTS OF COURSE GRADE:

LABORATORY REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Students will collect, identify, press and dry 50 herbarium specimens</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>from selected families and herbarium mount five specimens (Due 4/29)</td>
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<td>2. Students will complete two laboratory exams</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>(100 points each) (2/20 AND 4/30)</td>
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<td>3. Students will complete 2 quizzes (announced or unannounced!)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>4. Daily Laboratory Bonus Points</td>
<td>BONUS</td>
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<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>800</td>
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CLASS GRADE REQUIREMENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>VALUE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Lecture Examinations (3) (2/15, 4/4 &amp; 5/10 [11-1:30])*</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Laboratory Exams (2) (2/25 &amp; 5/6) &amp; 2 Quizzes (@50 pts)*</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Term Research &amp; Paper (Due 4/11 - 150 points); Oral Presentation</td>
<td>250</td>
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<td>(Beginning 4 - 100 points)</td>
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<td>4. Laboratory Projects</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>1,650</td>
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FINAL GRADE: Total Number of points ÷ 1,650 = FG (%)  *Dates are tentative!
90-100 = A; 80 – 90 = B; 70 – 80 = C; 60 – 70 = D; 59 below = F

VIII. LECTURE TOPIC OUTLINE

A. BASICS OF INTRODUCTORY TAXONOMY week 1
   1. Introduction to Plant Taxonomy
   2. Basic activities of systematic botany

B. BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE week 2
   1. Common names vs. Scientific names
   2. Pronouncing Scientific Names
   3. International Code of Botanical Nomenclature

C. VEGETATIVE TERMINOLOGY week 3
   1. Plant Life histories
   2. Plant Habits
   3. Plant Organs
   4. Root Types
   5. Stem Types
   6. Leaf Structure
   7. Special Features
   8. Surface Features

D. COLLECTING, PRESERVING AND IDENTIFYING PLANTS week 5
   1. Determining the correct names for plants
   2. Floras, manuals and botanical descriptions
   3. Collecting and preserving plants for study
E. SURVEY OF VASCULAR PLANT FAMILIES
1. Organization of the survey  week 6
2. Ferns and fern allies  week 6
3. Gymnosperms  week 6
4. Introduction to flowering plants  week 7
5. Magnoliidae  week 7
6. Rosidae I  week 8
7. Rosidae II  week 8
8. Asteridae I  week 9
9. Asteridae II  week 9
10. Dilleniidae  week 10
11. Caryophyllidae  week 10
12. Hamamelidae  week 11
13. Monocots I  week 11
14. Monocots II  week 12

F. APPROACHES TO CLASSIFICATION
1. Artificial and Phenetic Systems of Classification  week 13
2. Cladistic Classification Systems  week 14

G. GATHERING AND ANALYSIS DATA
1. Character Variation  week 14
2. Experimental Plant Systematics  week 15

IX. LABORATORY/FIELD TRIP TOPIC OUTLINE:

January
1/28  Lab # 1  Introduction, Vegetative Terminology/Exercise 3

February
2/4  Lab # 2  Flowering Plants/Exercise 10
2/11  Lab # 3  Survey of Vascular Plants/Exercise 7
2/18  Lab # 4  Lab at Herbarium NRC
2/25  Lab # 5  First Laboratory Examination  (Plant Morphology)

March
3/4  Lab # 6  Sandia/Mathis Field Trip
3/11 - 3/15  Spring Break
3/18  Lab # 7  Survey of Vascular Plants
3/25  Lab # 8  Survey of Vascular Plants/Field Trip Prep.

April
4/1  Lab # 9  Survey of Vascular Plants
4/5-4/6  Field Trip to Ben Bolt Mesquite/Acacia Habitat  (*A $15 fee for meals is required.)
4/8  Lab # 10  Survey of Vascular Plants
4/15  Lecture Term Research Paper due & begin Oral Presentations; Survey of Vascular Plants
4/22  Lab # 11  Labeling and collection final preps
4/29  Lab # 12  Survey of Vascular Plants  ALL PLANT COLLECTIONS DUE!
5/6  Lab # 13  Final Laboratory Examination  (Plant Keying)