COURSE SYLLABUS

Department of Life Sciences

SENIOR PRESENTATION-BIOL 4292

SPRING 2014

Course: BIOL 4292.001
Lecture: MW 10:00-10:50 a.m.
Room: EN 108

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Bart Cook III
EMAIL: bart.cook@tamucc.edu
OFFICE: EN 309
PHONE: 361-825-2683
OFFICE HOURS: 7:00-8:00 a.m. MWF
10:00 a.m. F
Or by appointment- please see sign up posted on my office door

Lecture Text: None

A seminar represents one means whereby knowledge can be exchanged between biologists. Although the undergraduate seminar will be held in an informal manner, each student is expected to conduct himself/herself as a professional.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To increase your knowledge in a specific area of biology and to communicate this information in a concise and orderly manner to your fellow students.

2. To increase your professional competency in the area of literature research, organization, and visual aids.

3. To develop the ability and confidence in yourself that is required in orally presenting your knowledge concerning biological subjects.

4. To develop your skills in objectively evaluating the presentation/presenter of scientific information.
**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Each student will submit a typed page containing the proposed title and subject matter for his/her presentation. This page will be submitted within one week following the first seminar class meeting so that the topic maybe approved and/ or schedule conflicts resolved.

2. Each student will conduct a 15-20 minute presentation on a subject confined to the specific area of the chosen seminar topic. The presentation should follow these guidelines:

   A. Sufficient abstracts of your talk should be available for your audience. The abstracts should be titled and contain two full bibliographies for (1) cited biological literature and (2) visual aids.

   B. The presentation should contain sufficient references to the cited literature to both guide and inform the listener.

   C. The presentation should employ visual aids to the extent that points are clarified.

   D. Each student must present a typed copy of the abstract to the instructor (1) week in advance of presentation.

   E. Attendance at seminar is mandatory. Roll will be taken and in turn attendance will be factored into the final grade determination for the course. More than two (2) excused absences from seminar will result in a full letter grade deducted from the student’s overall semester raw grade. You are advised that if you are unable to attend seminar during the twice weekly class meetings than reschedule your enrollment for a semester during which you are able to attend.

**GRADING: (see evaluation form attached)**

1. Attendance: You are obligated by enrollment to attend each and every seminar as both an audience member and as a peer evaluator (see E above). Arrive to class early. Once the speaker begins the presentation, late students will be counted absent.

2. Instructor evaluation of presentation: You will be graded on your depth of knowledge, organization, ability to answer questions, employment of proper visual aids and appearance. The suggested time for each presentation is 15-20 minutes with a deduction from the students overall raw course grade one (1) full letter for presentation less than fifteen (15) minutes.

3. Intellectual curiosity: As a listener your responsibility is to ask questions but not in the order to make your presence known, but rather to clarify or expand upon a given point in the speaker’s presentation.

4. The final grade in seminar is determined from a mean in which the instructor’s evaluation counts as 2/3 and the peer evaluation mean (minus the high and low for each mean calculation) count as 1/3. Adjustments to the raw grade due to abeentism, insufficient presentation time, or tardiness will be made if appropriate.
SUGGESTIONS:

1. Remember that you are speaking before friends and that everyone will be hoping that you do as well as possible.

2. Do not prepare your seminar in haste. It will show. You don’t need to memorize your presentation but do organize well. Do not read the entire presentation. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE.

3. It is absolutely necessary that you verbally cite authorities during your talk. This is the major point which separates casual talk from a professional presentation.

4. As a listener jot down questions in the margin of the abstract page as you listen. Don’t leave questions to memory, they never seem to come back at the end of the talk.

5. The investment you make in seminar as an undergraduate will reward you many times over as a graduate student or professional biologist.

6. Your principle literature reference should be from recognized reference journals and from texts and/or monographs. The student is cautioned not to employ the literature citations that are not scrutinized by scientific professionals in an objective fashion. Other than for visual aid the internet-web site sources are not acceptable except where professional scientific journals maintain such sites.

Important Notice!
Every student is urged to keep abreast of any and all opportunities about scholarships, internships, and research opportunities.

To Subscribe to the information list:
1) Send an email message to opportunities-list-request@sci.tamucc.edu
2) In the subject field of the message type: Subscribe

NOTE: The official deadline for dropping any course during the 2014 spring semester is April 11, 2014.
Disability and Veteran’s 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 accommodation 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
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 on the process, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, consult Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01 Student Grade Appeal Procedures (http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html), and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage (http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school or the College of Science and Engineering Dean’s Office.

Academic Advising: The College of Science and Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in the Center for Instruction Room 350, and can be reached at 361-825-6094.