BIOL 1407
Department of Life Sciences
Summer II 2015

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: BIOL 1407 CRN 55022 Section 001
Class meeting time: MTWR 2:00-3:55, lab separate
Class location: CS 115
Course Website: Blackboard and at http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/masteringbiology/

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Luke Tornabene
Office location: NRC 3108
Office hours: Wednesday 12:30-1:30, Friday 9:00-10:00
Telephone: 361-825-2015
e-mail: Luke.Tornabene@tamucc.edu
Appointments: email

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Course Description
This course is an overview of the major concepts in biological diversity and plant and animal biology. Laboratory work will include individual/team activities as well as technology-related assignments. This course counts toward the natural science component of the University Core Curriculum.

Extended Course Description
Specifically, we will cover fundamental concepts regarding population divergence and speciation, evolutionary relationships among the major limbs of the ‘tree of life’, adaptations to deal with different environmental conditions, and global patterns of ecology and conservation.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites
BIOL 1406

Corequisites
None

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Required Textbook
Campbell Biology in Focus, Urry, LA, Cain, ML, Wasserman, SA, Minorsky, PV, Jackson, RB, and Reece, JB. Pearson. Boston, MA.

Optional Textbook(s) or Other References
Supplemental online material available after registration/login at: http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/

This is HIGHLY recommended.

Supplies
Students must bring their school ID to exams.

F. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

Assessment is a process used by instructors to help improve learning. Assessment is essential for effective learning because it provides feedback to both students and instructors. A critical step in this process is making clear the course’s student learning outcomes that describe what students are expected to learn to be successful in the course. The student learning outcomes for this course are listed below. By collecting data and sharing it with students on how well they are accomplishing these learning outcomes students can more efficiently and effectively focus their learning efforts. This information can also help instructors identify challenging areas for students and adjust their teaching approach to facilitate learning.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the major factors driving evolution in populations and support this with evidence from nature/literature
2. Summarize the diversity across major lineages of the ‘tree of life’
3. Formulate hypotheses regarding how different organisms may have evolved to take advantage of environmental conditions while maintaining homeostasis
4. Generate informed hypotheses regarding evolutionary relationships of species or groups of species based on shared derived characters
5. Explain to others the importance of biological evolution in shaping the physical world around us and in governing the interactions of living organisms with each other and their environments

Student’s abilities to complete these tasks will be continuously evaluated through:

1. Three exams (two regular exams and one final)
2. Daily quizzes / minute papers
3. Group discussions and in-class activities
4. Optional on-line assignments through Mastering-Biology
G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Instructional methods include PowerPoint lectures, videos, group activities, in-class quizzes, online supplemental questions and homework, and weekly review sessions via supplemental instructor.

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Your lecture average is worth ¾ of the overall BIOL 1407 course grade, your average from lab (based on reports, quizzes, practicals, etc. as stated in lab syllabus) will make up the remaining ¼ of that grade.

Lecture average will come from the following.

Exam 1: 100 points
Exam 2: 100 points
Exam 3 (final): 200 points
Quizzes: 100 points

TOTAL LECTURE AVERAGE = sum / 500

Grading scale:
90.0 –100.0 = A
80.0 – 89.9 = B
70.0 –79.9 = C
60.0 – 69.9 = D
0 – 59.9 = F

Exams: The first two exams will be based on the material leading up to that exam date, starting with the material after the previous exam – i.e. they will not be cumulative per se (no direct repetition of material), but may tangentially call upon basic concepts that are learned earlier in the semester. The final exam will be cumulative, but with at least 2/3 of the content coming from the final leg of the semester.

Quizzes: Every day there will be a quiz, either in the beginning of class, middle of class, or end of class. These may be short multiple choice questions, short answer questions, a short writing activity or simply a “minute paper” in which students provide anonymous feedback regarding the course content. If you miss a quiz, it will count as a 0. Your overall quiz average will be equivalent to one exam grade.

Mastering-Biology Assignments: Students will be required to register an account on Mastering-Biology (http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/) using the login information provided by the instructor, and the code provided when they purchase the text. There will be several assignments to complete online, and most students should also have access to the e-text
version of their book. Assignments will count as extra credit points on exams, provided they are completed on time. No late work will be accepted.

I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

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Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced to the class by the Instructor. The assignments and exams shown are directly related to the Student Learning Outcomes described in Section F.

J. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Tardiness
Attendance is mandatory and will be taken everyday. Tardiness is considered disrespectful and disruptive to both classmates and the instructor, and will count adversely towards your attendance. Absences will be excused in the case of family emergency or illness, and student is responsible for making up missed assignments or getting important course-related information (including amendments to syllabus) that occurred on that day. Every absence beyond the second unexcused absence results in a 10 points off an exam grade.

Late Work and Make-up Exams
Late work will not be accepted. There will be no make-up exams. Exam dates are scheduled well in advance. If you have a conflict with those scheduled times, it is the student’s responsibility to arrange an alternate time with the instructor well in advance.
Extra Credit
There will be several supplemental exercises on MasteringBiology that will count for extra credit. These must be completed by the specified due date for credit. There will be no additional individual extra credit opportunities.

Cell Phone Use
Cell phone use for non-class related activity is strictly prohibited during class, however students may be specifically asked to use it for class-related activities.

Laptop Use
Laptop use is encouraged for class-related activity, however non-class related browsing is prohibited and disruptive. Students caught on websites not related to class, or checking email during class will be asked to turn off and put away their laptops.

Food in Class
Snacks and beverages are permitted in class provided it is not disruptive. This policy is subject to change if it becomes a problem.

Missed Exam
Missed exams will result in a zero for that grade.

Participation
Attendance is mandatory, and participation via asking questions, taking quizzes, and working on group in-class assignments will be beneficial.

K. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- Academic Integrity (University)
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 a failing grade.

- Classroom/Professional Behavior
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This
prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

- **Statement of Civility**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

- **Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)**
  The grade of W will be assigned to any student officially dropping a course. Please consult with the instructor before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, visit the Office of the University Registrar for the Course Drop Form that must submitted. No student is eligible to receive a W without completing the official drop process by this deadline. Please consult the Academic Calendar (http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/) for the last day to drop a course.

- **Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering)**
  As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, 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 upon 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, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at 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, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

- **Disability Services**
  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. If you
believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call (361) 825-5816 or visit Disability Services in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/

• Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

L. OTHER INFORMATION
• Academic Advising
The College of Science & 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. Meetings are by appointment only; advisors do not take walk-ins. Please call or stop by the Advising Center to check availability and schedule an appointment. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instruction 350 or can be reached at (361) 825-3928.

GENERAL DISCLAIMER
I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regularly scheduled lecture periods.