A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section:   BIOL 1407.001  
Class meeting time:  MWF 8:00-8:50 am  (Lab: must attend assigned lab times)  
Class location:  Lecture: Engineering Building, EN 106  
Course Website:  (Blackboard Portal): https://bb9.tamucc.edu/  

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION  

Instructor:  Terri Nicolau  
Office location:  Engineering Building, EN-310B  
Office hours:  Mon. 11am-12pm; Tues. 10am-12pm; Wed. 11am-12pm; 2-3pm, or by appt.  
Telephone:  (361) 825-2166  
e-mail:  terri.nicolau@tamucc.edu  

Appointments:  A student may make an appointment to see me at times other than the scheduled office hours. I am available for consultation and extra help, but it is the student’s responsibility to request such help.  

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  
Even if you never have a position in a biology-related field, this course and your experience at TAMUCC will be beneficial to you. This course covers many topics that have a biological basis that are important issues in our society and gives you the skills to follow the debate about these issues and make an informed choice on these issues. This course provides you with the basic skills required to do well in other biology courses that you will take as part of your degree plan. Specifically, we will cover fundamental concepts regarding population divergence and speciation, evolutionary relationships among the major limbs of the ‘tree of life’, biodiversity, physiological adaptations to deal with different environmental conditions, and global patterns of ecology and conservation.
D. **PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES**

   **Prerequisites:** Biology I (BIOL 1406).
   **Co-requisites:** Biological Lab Safety Seminar (SMTE 0091)

You must be registered for BOTH Lecture & Lab COMPONENTS of this course. You must complete the safety seminar prior to lab

E. **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES**

   **REQUIRED:** Tophat. Mandatory use of Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system. Electronic attendance, and answer submission for in-class questions and quizzes will utilize Top Hat.

   **Required Textbook(s):**
   **Campbell Biology in Focus** 2nd ed., By Urry   TEXT ISBN 9780134433769
   PUBLISHER: PEARSON

   **INTERNET AND WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS:**
   **REQUIRED:** BLACKBOARD. This course requires the use of the internet (Islander TAMU-CC email account, listserv, and worldwide web) to foster the technological abilities of the student. All students are expected to subscribe to and utilize the course Blackboard account regularly.

   **Laboratory Manual for Biology 1407, Spring 2016.** The lab manual will be available on Blackboard. You do NOT have to purchase a lab manual at the bookstore.

   **Supplies and Other Requirements:**
   - Mandatory use of Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system.
   - Electronic attendance via tablet, phone, or laptop using Top Hat.
   - Top Hat answer submission for in-class questions
   - Note taking supplies are required for class.
   - Students must bring their school ID to exams.
   - Access to BlackBoard will be required.
   - See separate Lab Syllabus regarding laboratory

All students are required to have a lab coat when entering the labs for any reason. In addition, to the lab coat, students must be wearing long pants and closed-toe, close-heel shoes to enter the labs at any time.

**OPTIONAL:**
**MasteringBiology Website:** http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/
This is NOT required. No mandatory assignments or points will be assigned from this. If you and used this website in the Fall 2015 semester for Biology I (Biol 1406) and wish to
use it as a study tool, make sure to use the same username to avoid being charged again.

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:

SLO 1. Describe the major factors driving evolution in populations and support this with evidence from nature/literature

SLO 2. Summarize the diversity across major lineages of the ‘tree of life’

SLO 3. Formulate hypotheses regarding how different organisms may have evolved to take advantage of environmental conditions while maintaining homeostasis

SLO 4. Generate informed hypotheses regarding evolutionary relationships of species or groups of species based on shared derived characters

SLO 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 evaluated through:

1. Four exams and a final (Lowest test grade will be dropped, so grade will be comprised of three highest exams and the final)

2. Homework assigned during semester. Possible (TBD) homework may include: out of class homework, quizzes, group in-class activities or other activities.

3. Laboratory activities (see separate syllabus)

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

This course uses a variety of instructional methods and activities in order to facilitate student’s learning, including but not limited to: PowerPoint lectures, labs, group activities, student projects, research, presentations, quizzes, supplemental questions, homework, and review sessions via supplemental instructor

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Your lecture average is worth 75% of the overall course grade; your average from lab
(based on lab reports, lab quizzes, lab practicals, etc.) will make up the remaining 25% of the grade.

**GRADE COMPUTATION:**

| Laboratory average (reports, quizzes, assignments, practical, etc.) | 25% |
| Lecture average | 75% |

**NOTE:** The lecture average and total lecture average are determined on a weighted percentage scale (not points). Since grades are weighted according to the table below, “total points” shown on Blackboard are NOT reflective of the correct grade percentage.

*Lecture average* will come from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of LECTURE GRADE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Exams</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive final exam*</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments, projects, quizzes, homework</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL LECTURE AVERAGE = % of total available percentage earned.

**Letter Grades:** Your final letter grade is based on your average in lecture and lab.

\[
A \geq 90\% > B \geq 80\% > C \geq 70\% > D \geq 60\% > F
\]

Grades are input into Blackboard as quickly as possible. Students should check Blackboard for their current lecture and lab averages, noting which assignments are recorded in Blackboard.

- I will correct clerical, mathematical, and/or other instructor grade errors. However, it is student’s responsibility to check grades in Blackboard daily. **Once grades are posted in Blackboard, the student has only one week in which to address any errors regarding the grade.** So, you have **one (1) week to notify me** of such errors after posted on Blackboard or after assignment, quiz or examination is returned or the grade will stand.

- I will not change a legitimate course grade just because you “need” it (for financial aid, to get into professional school, etc.). The grading section of this syllabus describes how grades are computed. Please be sure you maintain a high enough average to get the grade you want. You have plenty of help in my class. Take advantage of the resources offered, such as reviews and SI. The reasons for receiving a grade of “I” (incomplete) are clearly defined in the University Catalog; this “grade” cannot be used simply to prevent a student from receiving an unwanted grade in a class.
I only discuss grades in person (i.e., I do not discuss grades or matters relating to grades over the telephone or by e-mail). If you wish to know your final grade before the official grade report is mailed to you, please see me in person or provide me with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Examinations: There will be three exams (100 percentage points each), taking questions for these tests primarily from material covered in the lectures, from handouts and other assignments, and from readings in the textbook and assignments. Exams may consist of essay, short-answer, compare-contrast, fill-in-the-blank, multiple-choice, matching, making and/or labeling drawings, and/or various types of “flex” questions (i.e., any type of question is fair game). The first three exams cover material from a specific section of the course. There may be a fourth exam covering material after Exam 3 to the end of the semester, or the instructor may choose to include that material on the final. The final examination is comprehensive (i.e., covers material from the entire semester).

During an exam, if you leave an examination room—for any reason—you must turn in your exam and answer sheet and you will not be allowed to resume the examination. Attend to personal matters (e.g., restroom visits) before the examination.

- Be on time! Anyone arriving after someone has completed an examination and left the room will not be allowed to take that examination.
- Cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable behaviors.
- Cell phones, computers, (including “smart watches”) are not permitted to be with the student during exams. Any student found with these types of devices will be considered cheating and will receive a zero for the exam. All violations of the school’s Academic Integrity policies will be reported.

Quizzes: Quizzes may be given at any time, announced or unannounced, at the beginning of class, middle of class, end of class, online, or take-home. These may be fill in the blank, multiple choice, short answer, or essay questions. If you miss a quiz, it will count as a 0 and cannot be made up. Quizzes, homework, projects, and class assignment grades are combined together for the “assignment” portion grade.

Other Assignments: Other class assignments will be required to be completed and will be used in grade calculations. I will not accept late work, so all assignments must be completed on time. Assignments will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

There will be assignments, homework, and quizzes given in class. These may include pop quizzes, data interpretation, experimental design, seminar attendance, etc. They may be due at the start of the next lecture class, but some assignments may be in-class only and makeups are not possible. You are encouraged to get together and work on them as a group. However, unless specified otherwise, the assignments must be turned in individually and be written in your own words, NOT COPIED. An assignment grade of ZERO will be given if the work is not in your own words.

Laboratory: Laboratory activities will contribute 25% of the final course grade. Please
see the separate Lab Syllabus for details of these activities.

All assignments and examination answers must be **legible** to the Instructor. If I cannot read it, I cannot grade it, so illegible answers and papers will receive a 0.

I. **COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE**

The complete course calendar will be posted on Blackboard.

Exam dates: **Will be posted on Blackboard schedule**

Final: **May 5, 2017 8:00am – 10:30am**

[http://registrar.tamucc.edu/final_exams/](http://registrar.tamucc.edu/final_exams/)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAPTER &amp; NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wk 1</td>
<td>Course Intro; Syllabus; Protocols;</td>
<td>Read Syllabus Lab Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 2</td>
<td>SI Presentation; Descent w/ Modification</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 3</td>
<td>Phylogeny; Evolution/Populations; Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium</td>
<td>20; 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 4</td>
<td>Speciation</td>
<td>21, 22</td>
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<td>Macroevolution Patterns</td>
<td>23 (Exam II)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 5</td>
<td>EXAM I CH 19, 20, 21, 22</td>
<td>EXAM I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 Macroevolution Patterns</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Early Life; Prokaryotic Diversity;</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 6</td>
<td>Origin &amp; Diversification of Eukaryotes</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>Wk 7</td>
<td>Colonization of Land by Plants &amp; Fungi</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 8</td>
<td>EXAM II CH 23, 24, 25, 26</td>
<td>EXAM II</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Animal Diversity</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 9</td>
<td>Spring Break!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk. 10</td>
<td>Animal Diversity (cont.)</td>
<td>32;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 11</td>
<td>Population Ecology &amp; Distribution; Species Interactions;</td>
<td>40; 41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 12</td>
<td>Species Interactions; 4/4/16 EXAM III CH 27, 32, 40, 41</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ecosystems &amp; Energy</td>
<td>EXAM III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 13</td>
<td>Ecosystems &amp; Energy; Global Ecology &amp; Conservation</td>
<td>42; 43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 14</td>
<td>Global Ecology &amp; Conservation Biology</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 15</td>
<td>Plant Form &amp; Function; Animal Form &amp; Function</td>
<td>30; 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 16</td>
<td>EXAM IV CH 42, 43, 30, 32</td>
<td>EXAM IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FINAL: May 5, 2017 8:00am – 10:30am</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary, will be announced in class, and posted on Blackboard by the Instructor.

The schedule may require adjustment. Additional assignments may or may not be provided at the Instructor’s discretion. Such assignments might include homework, group projects, reading assignments, quizzes, etc. Every attempt will be made to follow the time and evaluation schedules shown here. It is the student’s duty to attend each class and regularly visit BlackBoard to be aware of all assignments, deadlines, and changes to such.
J. COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

You are responsible for the material covered and assignments made in every lecture regardless of whether you attend it. “I came in late and didn’t hear about the assignment,” is never an acceptable excuse. It is always your responsibility to determine what happened in class during your absence.

Attendance is mandatory. Excused absences require contacting the instructor. Students with a university approved scheduled absence (athletics, military duty, etc.) MUST contact the instructor well in advance of a scheduled absence, for EACH absence, during office hours, not during class.

Family vacations and celebrations of your birthday are worthwhile, but are not classified as excused absences. If you book an airplane flight or non-emergency appointment which conflicts with class, I do NOT consider that to be an excused absence. Routine events should be scheduled to avoid class conflicts. In general, only unavoidable and documented absences are excused (major family illness or accidents, deaths, funerals).

I WILL BE TAKING ATTENDANCE AT EACH CLASS. STUDENTS ARE GIVEN TWO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES PER SEMESTER FOR THIS CLASS. AFTER THAT ABSENCE, THEY WILL RECEIVE A FIVE (5) POINT DROP IN THEIR ATTENDANCE GRADE FOR EACH ADDITIONAL ABSENCE. LEAVING CLASS EARLY/ARRIVING LATE FOR CLASS WILL COUNT AS HALF (½) OF AN ABSENCE.

Unacceptable Excuses: Only unavoidable absences are excused (see above), so you should schedule routine personal events (e.g., vacations, wedding, reunions, non-emergency medical or dental visits, parent-teacher conferences, household or auto repairs) to avoid conflicts with your classes. Oversleeping is never an acceptable excuse. Employment conflicts are not acceptable excuses for absences, tardiness, or leaving class early. Texas waves jury duty for students, so jury duty is not an acceptable excuse. If you arrange to take any test at an alternate time and do not show for that appointment, then you forfeit the opportunity to take the test except at its originally scheduled time.

It is the responsibility of the student to obtain any material missed during an absence from his/her classmates. It is always your responsibility to determine what happened in class or laboratory during your absence. If you are absent, you must obtain any handouts or assignments from me in my office on your own time: I rarely bring assignments to class more than once. You must obtain class notes from other students.

Special circumstances may warrant deviating from these guidelines (including administering a “make-up” examination). This also applies to any situations for which you cannot provide an acceptable excuse as outlined above.
Late Work and Make-up Exams

Quizzes, assignments, and points missed because of an unexcused absence (including tardiness and leaving early) cannot be recovered. An excused absence (with documentation) allows me to make alternative arrangements for completing SOME assignments. The documentation required for an absence to be excused must be:

- from an appropriate source (e.g., doctor, dentist, funeral director) who states the nature of the event that caused (or will cause) your absence.
- in writing, on official stationary, and signed. (I do not return excuses to you.) Telephone calls, FAXes, and e-mails are not acceptable.
- presented prior to the absence for a scheduled event (e.g., university-sponsored activity, recognized religious holiday, military service).
- presented no more than one week after the date of an unexpected absence.

If you know you will be out, you may always turn in assignments early. Except for excused absences, late assignments will not be accepted. If you know in advance that you will have an excused absence when an assignment is due, you must turn in that assignment before its due date. You should turn in assignments that were missed because of an unexpected, excused absence as soon as possible.

For some scheduled events (athletics, military duty, etc.), you may arrange to take a lecture examination before (not after) its scheduled date. (You should take a test as close to its originally scheduled time as possible, but you may not take a test more than one week before its originally scheduled time. You must obtain your instructor’s approval at least one week before you wish to take the pre-test). If you arrange to take any test at an alternate time and do not show for that appointment, then you forfeit the opportunity to take the test except at its originally scheduled time. Students who do not arrange to take examinations in advance will not be eligible for this special consideration. A written excuse from the university department involved or from the Office of Student Engagement and Success is required.

In general, there are NO individual make-up examinations. IF you miss an exam with an excused absence, that will be the dropped exam grade for the semester. No makeup exams will be allowed for an unexcused absence. At the discretion of the instructor, a missed test for an excused absence may be a dropped test grade or may be a make-up exam given at a date selected by the instructor, including make up exams given the last week of the semester.

Extra Credit: I do not provide extra credit assignments for the course. I do occasionally offer extra credit points, but these are rare.

Cell Phone & Laptop Use

No cell phone, computer, iPad, smart watch, etc. use during class or tests unless specified or approved by instructor. TEXTING – not during class or lab. Use of devices that can connect to the internet are not allowed during instruction or exams. For emergency purposes, (you must discuss with me first), you may have your cell phone ON SILENT, on your desk – not on your lap. If you get an emergency call, or text, please take it outside. Cellular phones and other “beepers” must be silenced BEFORE entering classroom.
Participation
All students are expected to attend the full class and lab periods, well prepared to discuss the required reading assignments, complete all assignments, and to participate in class discussions. A portion of your grade is earned by participation. Group work, class activities, labs, and quizzes cannot be made up. So attendance and active participation in class are required of all students.

Other/Misc.
ASSIGNMENTS are due on time. I do not accept late work. If you don’t understand an assignment, please do NOT wait until 10:00 the night before it is due to contact me about it. The same goes for studying for a test – please don’t wait until the last minute to demonstrate that you haven’t started studying yet. Procrastination on your part does NOT constitute an emergency on my part.

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. There are consequences for dropping a class, so read the drop policy in the University Catalog (better still, consult with the instructor or your academic advisor and someone in the financial aid office) 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 for the last day to drop a course ([http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/](http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/)).

• **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](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](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** [http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/](http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/)
  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/](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.