BIOL 4292 -Senior Presentation
Department of Life Sciences
Spring 2017

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: BIOL 4292.002
Class meeting time: R 4:20-6:00 pm
Class location: CI 127
Course Website: https://bb9.tamucc.edu/

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Paul Silva
Office location: Natural Resources Center 2501
Telephone: 825-3204
Office hours: Mon, Tues, Wed 3:30-5:30 pm
E-mail: paul.silva@tamucc.edu
Appointments: email or call me for appointments outside of scheduled hours

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

As a senior biologist it is essential to be able to communicate effectively and efficiently with the science community via oral, written or audiovisual mediums. This is especially important when presenting at a scientific conference, university seminar or with peers. This course will provide students the opportunity to research, prepare and give a PowerPoint presentation to the class.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites course required-BIOL2200 or Prerequisites course required-BIMS2200

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

None

F. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

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 areas of literature research, organization, and visual aid.
3. To develop the ability and confidence in yourself that is required in orally presenting your views and knowledge concerning biological subjects.
4. To develop your skills in objectively evaluating the presentation and presenter of scientific experiments.
G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Each student will submit a typed proposal containing a title and subject matter for his/her presentation. This page will be submitted via blackboard within two weeks following the first seminar class meeting so that the topic may be approved and schedule conflicts resolved.

Each student will conduct a 15-20 minute presentation on subject confined to the specific 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 literature and for (2) visual aid material.

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

c. The presenter should employ use visual aids to the extent that points are clarified.

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance and Participation: You are obligated by enrollment to attend each and every class as both an audience member and as a peer evaluator. Arrive early to class. Once the speaker begins the presentation, late students will be counted as absent. More than two absences will result in a full grade deduction.

Instructor evaluation your individual and group presentations: 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 of less than 15 minutes.

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

The Final grade in senior presentation is determined from your Powerpoint presentation, assignments for class (bibliography and presentation outline), participation in class and attendance. The grade for your individual presentation is determined from a mean in which the instructor’s evaluation counts 67% and the peer evaluation means (minus the high and low for each mean calculation) counts 33% for the individual score. The raw grade is adjusted accordingly due to absenteeism, tardiness, insufficient presentation time, lack of participation, and class assignments.

Grading Breakdown:

PowerPoint presentation will account for 50% of your final grade
Presentation Bibliography – 10%
Presentation Outline – 10%
Participation-15%
Attendance-15%
SUGGESTIONS:

All assignments should be submitted via blackboard.
Remember that you are speaking before friends and that everyone is hoping that you do as well as possible.
Do not prepare your seminar in haste. It will show, you don’t need to memorize presentation but do organize well. Do not read the entire presentation. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE.

It is absolutely necessary that you verbally cite authorities during your talk. This is a major point which separates a casual talk from a professional presentation.
As a listener, jot down questions in the margin of the abstract pages as you listen. Don’t leave questions to memory, they never seem to come back at the end of the talk.
The investment you make in the seminar as an undergraduate will reward you many times over as a graduate student or professional biologist.
Your Principal literature reference should be from recognized primary reference journals and from texts and/ 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 website sources are not acceptable except where professional journals maintain such sites.
Dress appropriately for the presentation, as if you were presenting at a professional conference.
Individual presentation times will be randomly selected. Volunteers to go first are accepted. Presentation times can be switched between students with an email confirmation sent to me from both students. Any student that misses their assigned scheduled time will receive a 0 for the assignment.
Every student is urged to keep abreast of and all opportunities about research opportunities:
1. Send an email to: opportunities-list-request@sci.tamucc.edu
2. In the subject field above, type: Subscribe
I. **COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<td>Introduction/Syllabus Review</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>January 26, 2017</td>
<td>Library Resources Class</td>
<td>Meet in Library</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>February 2, 2017</td>
<td>Bibliographies</td>
<td>Presentation Topic and Title</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>February 9, 2017</td>
<td>Resume vs. Curriculum Vitae</td>
<td>Select Presentation Order</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>February 16, 2017</td>
<td>Presentation Do's and Don'ts</td>
<td>Bibliography</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>February 23, 2017</td>
<td>Critical and Constructive Reviews</td>
<td>PowerPoint Outline</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>March 2, 2017</td>
<td>Practice</td>
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<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>March 23, 2017</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
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<td>March 30, 2017</td>
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<td>16</td>
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J. **COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance/Tardiness**
You are obligated by enrollment to attend each and every class as both an audience member and as a peer evaluator. Arrive early to class. Once the speaker begins the presentation, late students will be counted as absent. More than two absences will result in a full grade deduction.

**Late Work and Make-up Exams**
Assignments are due by the start of class time. Assignments turned in after class starts are deemed late and will incur a deduction of 10 points until Friday of the assigned week. An additional 10 points will be deducted if turned in by the following class. No work is accepted after one week and the student will receive a 0 for the assignment.

**Cell Phone Use**
Cell phones should be turned off or silenced during class. Students using phones during class will have their phones confiscated until class is over.

**Food in Class**
Food is not permitted in the class room during class time.
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 by April 7, 2017. 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.