A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: BIMS 4335
Class meeting time: Lecture: Tuesday 7:00 pm -9:30 pm
Class location: Lecture: EN 107
Course Websites: bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Xavier F. Gonzales, PhD, MSPH
Office location: Engineering 310C
Office hours: MW 10:00 am -1:30pm
Telephone: 361-825-3824
e-mail: Xavier.Gonzales@tamucc.edu
Email me at any time but my responses will be limited after 5pm weekdays and all weekend.
Appointments: email me to set up appointments

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Course Description

Basic biochemical and molecular aspects of hormone physiology, basic endocrine function and hormone action, immune-endocrine interactions, and clinical examples of the outcomes of abnormal function in human disease.

Extended Course Description

A major goal of this course is to provide you with a broad overview of neuroendocrinology. The majority of the discussion will be based on the human system but relationships will be made to other vertebrates. Recent primary literature review will be a major source of information to facilitate understanding of current knowledge on bio-regulatory mechanisms that mediate the neuro-immuno-endocrine axis. The course is student centered therefore you should be prepared for interactive discussions amongst your peers.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites
BIOL/BIMS 2200
BIOL 2416
CHEM 3412

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Book for discussion on Reproductive Endocrinology: Sex: understanding what you know, what you want to know and what you have never even thought about by Landefeld T.
Highly Recommended Textbook(s)
- Endocrine Physiology by Molina P. or
- Essential Endocrinology and Diabetes by Holt R.

Reference Textbook(s)

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. Demonstrate a general knowledge base in the area of neuroendocrine system as determined by class discussions, short answer exam, two term papers and a short answer final exam.
2. Find, read, understand, critically evaluate, summarize, analyze and interpret quantitative biological data as reported by literature as determined through class discussion of primary journals and two term papers.
3. Communicate scientific information through written and oral presentations on biochemistry and biological functions of neuroendocrine products on metabolism and reproduction as determined by two term papers and oral presentations.
4. Develop conclusions on the role of the neuroendocrine system on various living systems as determined by short answer exam, short answer final exam and class discussions.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES
Learner-Centered Teaching: Collaborative work, control of content selection, personal reflection, learning skill demonstration
H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (Individual &amp; Group)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
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<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25</td>
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Grading scale: A>90%  B=80-89.9%  C=70-79.9%  D=60-69%  F<60%

Nature of Assignments:
Team Learning: We will use a team learning approach in this class. Groups of FIVE (5) will be established at the start of the course. Research examining team learning assignments show that the group score is HIGHER than individual scores and that students understand concepts much better as a result of discussing questions in groups. Sometimes each group member will submit answers individually and sometimes groups will submit group consensus answers to questions. We will use the team learning approach on in-class quizzes, homework and lecture exams as described below. When working in groups it is always beneficial to assign roles for assignments i.e. coordinator, scribe, investigator, artist, speaker. Also switch roles for various assignments.

Exams will be comprised of 10 short answer questions of which you will select to answer ONLY 4-5 to obtain a total of 100 pts. The questions will cover basic concepts learned about the neuroendocrine system throughout the course, this includes information from student presentations. Questions require analysis and interpretation of data or experimental design to assess critical thinking skills. (A pencil will be required for taking your exam.)

For the exams, students will INDIVIDUALLY take the exam during the first scheduled class period. This score will constitute 60% of your 100 point exam score (100 points). The other 40 points of your exam score will be from a GROUP exam that will be taken during the first hour of the following class period. Without using any outside resources during the group portion of the exam or between the individual and group portions of the exam, your group will work together to answer all 10 questions. Each group must reach a consensus on each question and submit a single set of answers for the whole group. There is no group component on the final exam.

The Final Exam (Tuesday, December 12th from 7:15pm-9:45pm) will be a comprehensive review of entire course content consisting of short answer questions.

Two Papers and Two Presentations on some aspect of endocrinology within the topics reproduction and diabetes will be required. The choice of topic within the highlighted parameters must be submitted through Blackboard by class time on the deadline date, whereas the paper has to be submitted through Turnitin (Blackboard), also by class time on the designated deadline date. Students must be ready to present starting on the day that the assignment is due.
Presenters will volunteer to be selected randomly. Note that the presentations will be part of the “lecture series” for the course and therefore subject to being covered on the exams. The paper/presentations will be on any topic in endocrinology, with approval of instructor. The paper should be no more than four-six page (double spaced) and the presentation no more than 8-10 minutes. Audio visual aids, e.g. PowerPoints, handouts, drawings, or designed props can be used. There is not a specific means of presenting your information as long as you are able to deliver key concepts to your peers. Published references must be cited. Deadlines for choosing the topics are provided; failure to meet these deadlines will result initially in a loss of a letter grade, e.g. A to B; however after a week, an F will be given for the assignment. As indicated, the papers must be turned in through Turnitin (Blackboard) by the tie, i.e. class time, and date indicated in this syllabus. **Plagiarism is looked down upon. Be sure to make proper citations and put things in your own words.**

**COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Lecture Topics</th>
<th>Exams</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>Individual Exam I</td>
<td>Exam I</td>
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<td>11/07</td>
<td>Group Exam I</td>
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<td>12/12</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>08/29</td>
<td>Course Introduction &amp; Overview</td>
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<td>09/05</td>
<td>General Principles and Systems</td>
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<td>09/12</td>
<td>General Principles and Systems cont.</td>
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<td>09/19</td>
<td>Investigations into Endocrinology (Reproduction)</td>
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<td>09/26</td>
<td>Reproduction (Landefeld Book)</td>
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<td>10/03</td>
<td>Presentations (1st Paper due) (Reproduction)</td>
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<td>10/10</td>
<td>Steroid Biosynthesis</td>
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<td>Hypothalamus &amp; Pituitary</td>
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<td>10/24</td>
<td>Pituitary &amp; Thyroid</td>
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<td>10/31</td>
<td>Individual Exam</td>
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<td>11/07</td>
<td>Group Exam; Thyroid/parathyroid</td>
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<td>11/14</td>
<td>Adrenal Gland</td>
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<td>Pancreas</td>
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<td>11/28</td>
<td>Investigations into Endocrinology (Diabetes)</td>
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<td>12/05</td>
<td>Presentations (Diabetes)</td>
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I. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Tardiness
Attendance: Students are expected to attend every scheduled class meeting. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain any material missed during an absence from his/her classmates. Power Points are not placed in the library, and only Power Points from certain sections will be placed on Blackboard, or on a website.
Tardiness: Students may enter when late but be respectful of your peers and do not disrupt the class as you enter.

Late Work and Make-up Exams
No late work will be accepted. You must refer to Blackboard to identify when items will be due. It is your responsibility to get it turned in through the appropriate outlet on the designated day. I will not remind you.

No make-up exams will be given; exam grade can be dropped and replaced by the grade from the Cumulative Final Exam.

Extra Credit
Missed extra credit opportunities--Instructor is not obligated to give make-up assignments for extra credit opportunities, whether excused or unexcused.

Cell Phone Use
Lecture: Students may NOT utilize their cell phone; therefore keep them on silent and put away.

Laptop Use
Lecture: Students may utilize their laptops as long as it does not disrupt others in class.

Food in Class
Lecture: Students may eat food as long as it does not disrupt others in class. It is the student’s responsibility to clean up after themselves. If you fail to do so, you will no longer be allowed to have food in class.

Missed Exam
No make-up exams will be given; exam can be dropped and replaced by the grade from
the Cumulative Final Exam.

**Participation**

Lecture: Students are required to participate in all group activities. **Peer evaluations will be given with each activity to determine your final assessment.**

**Communicating with Instructors**

All students should communicate with the instructors using their TAMUCC Black Board account or your islander.tamucc.edu email address. Your instructors will not discuss grades and related info via email unless the message originates from your islander account. Information for using and accessing this account can be found on BlackBoard. If you run into difficulties that are not being resolved by the student computer help desk, please contact Dr. Gonzales ASAP.

**J. 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)**
  I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. *Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.* Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Please consult the Academic Calendar ([http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/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](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**
  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.

K. 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.