BIOL 4292 -Senior Presentation  
Department of Life Sciences  
Spring 2018

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: BIOL 4292.002  
Class meeting time: R 4:20-6:00 pm  
Class location: IH 157  
Course Website: https://bb9.tamucc.edu/

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Paul Silva  
Office location: Natural Resources Center Suite 2500  
Telephone: 825-3204  
Office hours: Monday - Wednesday 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 prepare and give presentations as an individual and as part of a group.

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

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.
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.
5. To develop communication, cooperation and coordination skills with your peers to effectively present a group presentation.
6. To develop communication and interpersonal skills necessary to interview for future jobs.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Each Student will submit a typed request via blackboard containing the proposed title and subject matter for his/her presentation. This page will be submitted 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 12-15 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.

Each student will search for a specific job in their field of study and submit a job announcement and application for this job by the eighth class period. The student will be expected to research the job descriptions, tasks and duties, and company to be able to interview for the position.

The student with then be interviewed by a panel of 3-5 people:

a. Each student should be prepared to answer questions about their knowledge of the job and company they are interviewing for.

b. The student should explain their skills, knowledge and abilities as it pertains to the job announcement.

c. The student should dress and behave as they are participating in a “real” interview.

d. The student should have questions to ask the interviewers about the job.

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 aides and appearance. The time limit for each presentation is 12-15 minutes with a deduction from the students overall raw course grade one (1) full letter for presentation of less than 12 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 individual presentations, mock interview and participation/attendance in class. 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 mock interview grade will be based on the average of the panel. The raw grade is adjusted accordingly due to absenteeism, tardiness, insufficient presentation time or lack of participation.

**Grading Breakdown (1000 point total):**
- PowerPoint Topic, Title and Outline - 100
- PowerPoint presentation will account for 300 points of your final grade
- Presentation Bibliography – 100 points
- Curriculum Vitae – 100 points
- Job Announcement and Application – 100 points
- Mock Interview – 200 points
- Participation and Attendance-100 points

*All assignments must be submitted via blackboard.*

**SUGGESTIONS:**
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 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 aide the internet website sources are not acceptable except where professional journals maintain such sites.

Dress appropriately for the presentation.

Individual presentation and mock interview times will be randomly selected. Volunteers to go first are accepted. Presentation and interview 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.

**Important Notice:**

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

### Tentative Class Schedule (This might be modified due to final class size)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January 18, 2018</td>
<td>Introduction/Syllabus</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>January 25, 2018</td>
<td>Presentation Topic Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>February 1, 2018</td>
<td>Resume vs. Curriculum Vitae Bibliographies PowerPoint</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>February 8, 2018</td>
<td>Presentation PowerPoint Scientific Writing</td>
<td>Presentation Topic, Title &amp; Outline</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>February 15, 2018</td>
<td>Mock Interview Instructions/How to Evaluate Presentations</td>
<td>Curriculum Vitae Select Presentation Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>February 22, 2018</td>
<td>Practice / No Class</td>
<td>Bibliography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>March 1, 2018</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
<td>PowerPoint Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>March 8, 2018</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
<td>Job Announcement and Application</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March 15, 2018</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>March 22, 2018</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>March 29, 2018</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>April 5, 2018</td>
<td>Mock Interviews</td>
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I. 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 8, 2016. 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.

J. 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.