TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - CORPUS CHRISTI  
Department of Physical and Life Sciences  
Fall 2017

A. COURSE INFORMATION  
Course number/section: CMSS 6102  
Class meeting time: 2:00 pm – 2:50 pm  
Class location: CS 108  
Course Website: https://bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION  
Instructor: Dr. J. David Felix  
Office location: NRC 3102  
Office hours: T 10:00 am – 12:30 pm, R 10:00 am - 12:30 pm  
Telephone: 361-825-4180  
e-mail: joseph.felix@tamucc.edu

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION  
Advanced topic study and presentation by students, faculty, or visiting scientists. Meets one hour weekly.

D. PREREQUISITIE/CO-REQUISITE FOR THE COURSE  
None

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S) AND SUPPLIES  
Recommended reading:  

Required Journal articles will be supplied:  
5. Assigned discussion articles

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.

At the conclusion of this course the student should be able to:
- Establish future leaders and professionals with an in-depth coastal marine system science education.
- Educate future leaders and professionals with specialized skills by teaching methods of collecting, interpreting, analyzing and presenting scientific data orally and in various media formats.
- Enable future leaders and professionals to contribute to a profession or field of scholarship.
- Establish competency in application of scientific methods and the ability to conduct experiments.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES
   Traditional lectures via board demonstrations and power point presentations, classroom discussions, and student projects.

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper presentation/Discussion</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website/Research presentation</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X ≥ 90.0%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89.9% ≤ X &lt; 80.0%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>79.9% ≤ X &lt; 70.0%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>69.9% ≤ X &lt; 60.0%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X &lt; 60.0%</td>
<td>F</td>
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I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Cancelled</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Anthropogenic nitrogen history/group discussion assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 29</td>
<td>Website assignment/Reading discussion</td>
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</tbody>
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October 6 | Reading discussion
October 13 | TBA (guest lecture)
October 20 | Reading discussion
October 27 | Reading discussion
November 3 | TBA (guest lecture)
November 10 | Website/Research presentation
November 17 | Website/Research presentation
November 24 | Thanksgiving
December 1 | Website/Research presentation

**Discussion Content:**
There will be an introduction to the history of anthropogenic reactive nitrogen creation, production and consumption. Group discussion articles will focus on the impact of anthropogenic reactive nitrogen on coastal and aquatic ecosystems.

Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced to the class by the Instructor.

**J. COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance/Tardiness**
The student is expected to be on time and attend every class. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain missed information from a classmate. Missed information includes not only lecture notes, but also any possible information regarding syllabus changes. The student is expected to arrive on time prepared to take notes or take exam with appropriate supplies.

**Late Work and Make-Up Exams**
There are no exams. Late assignments will not be accepted.

**Extra Credit**
None.

**Cell Phone Use**
Before you enter the lecture hall turn **OFF** your cell phone. Cell phones are not permitted in class, not even as a calculator. Electronic interruptions will NOT be tolerated!

**Laptop Use**
Laptops are to be used only for lecture material. Use of laptops for non class items will not be permitted.

**Electronic Devices During Exams**
Any use of an electronic device (Cell Phone, MP3 player, CD player, computer, etc.) during an exam is strictly prohibited. Any use of such a device will be considered an attempt to cheat on the exam and will result in a 0 on the exam although more severe actions may be considered. Calculators may be allowed on exams when needed, but only
for mathematical operations. The use of programmable calculators to store or retrieve information during an exam will be considered an attempt to cheat on the exam. Also, if a calculator is discovered to have saved programs or information that could be used as an unfair advantage on the exam, this will be considered an attempt to cheat on the exam. Programs or operators that aid in mathematical operations such as a quadratic equation calculator may be used. N/A

Food in Class
Generally, food in class is not permitted during class. It is permissible to bring appropriate snacks during the 2 1/2 hour final exam. Coffee, sodas, energy drinks are permissible.

Missed Exam
See Late Work and Make-Up Exams above. N/A

Participation
Students are expected to attend all classes and be prepared to ask and/or answer questions.

Student Responsibility: It is the student’s responsibility to read and be aware of the contents of this syllabus and the course website on Blackboard. Announcements and changes are communicated in the classroom, Blackboard, and/or emails.

Tutoring and Test-Taking Strategies
To be successful in this course, and most others, you must develop good note-taking skills, organization skills, study habits, and test-taking strategies from the very beginning. Your instructor, seminar leaders and TA’s are always available for help, but don’t wait until it’s too late! It is important that you are aware that the Center for Academic Student Achievement provides free tutoring, test-taking strategies, and extra help. Take advantage of this service! Should you have test anxiety, stress problems, or need help with study skills, the University Counseling Center (Driftwood Building: 825-2703) provides a free service.

In choosing to take this course, you are agreeing to abide by the course rules, regulations, and standards. This includes agreeing to be respectful to your instructors and fellow students. Conduct that is disruptive or disrespectful will not be tolerated and is grounds for dismissal from the class. Should you have concerns or questions, you are to discuss them with the instructor as soon as possible. However, you are bound by these rules, regulations, and standards from the first day of the class throughout the duration of the course.

K. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIY POLICIES

- Academic Integrity (University)
It is expected that university students will demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction, and ability to manage their own affairs. Students are viewed as individuals who possess the qualities of worth, dignity, and the capacity for self-direction in personal behavior. See Full University Policy at http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=313#Academic_Integrity

- **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/) 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. My office is a Veterans Green Zone office. If you need to talk, come and see me.

  [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.