UTRGV COURSE SYLLABUS

MARINE ECOLOGY 4426-01 Instructor: Dr. Lucia B. Carreon Martinez
FALL 2017 Telephone: TBA
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M-W 9:25-10:40 AM Lab W Office hours: TBA

Textbook and/or Resource Material
Michel J. Kaiser, Martin J. Attrill, Simon Jennings, David N. Thomas, and David K. A. Barnes
ISBN: 9780199227020
Website companion: http://global.oup.com/uk/orc/biosciences/ecology/kaiser2e/

Course Objectives and Prerequisites
A study of the basic principles in Marine Ecology. Topics will include the study of different biomes (structure and function) within the marine environment and the discussion of global and current events related to the marine environment.
1. To introduce you to marine environments with a focus on south Texas.
2. To become familiar with the structure and function of marine ecosystems.
3. To recognize the common marine organisms of south Texas and appreciate their roles in local marine ecosystems.
4. To become aware of how natural events and human activities affect marine ecosystems.

Pre-requisite: BIOL 1407, BIOL 3409, BIOL 1407 AA, BIOL 3409 AA
Recommended prerequisite: MATH 1314 Successful completion of College Algebra or concurrent enrollment in higher level mathematics is recommended.

Grading Policies
Your final grade will be determined by
Four lecture exam exams 60pts (15 pts each),
Research paper/Journal article oral presentation 15pts.
Laboratory points 30 pts:
   Midterm exam 10 pts
   Final Exam 10 pts
   Lab Reports (2 reports) 10 pts
TOTAL: 105 pts

Maximum number of points for A is 100 pts

There are no make-up exams for missed examinations. If you missed one examination you can make it up by taking a cumulative final exam, or if you want to improve your grade (the final exam would replace the lowest grade of the previous exams). For extreme circumstances if you need to miss an examination you need to talk to the professor BEFORE the exam (at least by email) and also to provide proper documentation for the absence.

NOTE: Examinations dates are subject to change as we progress with the course, it is your responsibility to attend lecture to learn of these changes.

NOTE: If you decide to take Final Exam, it will be taken into account by replacing the lowest of the previous grades (even if the Final Exam grade is less than previous grades)

UTRGV’s grading policy is to use straight letter grades (A, B, C, D, or F). Once the final exam is posted there are no more changes or “round up”.
Important dates
The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at http://my.utrgv.edu at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Important dates for Fall 2017 include:

- Sept. 1 (Fri.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive an 80% refund
- Sept. 4 (Mon.) Labor Day Holiday. No classes.
- Nov. 23 – Nov. 25 (Thurs. – Sat.) Thanksgiving Holiday. No classes.
- Dec. 7 (Thurs.) Study Day. No classes.
- Dec. 8 – Dec. 14 (Fri. – Thurs.) Final Exams

Other Course Information

ATTENDANCE:

- Students are required to attend all classes, and must be on time
- Excessive absences will result in a loss of points from participation grade. I am required to report excessive absences (more than three) to the ALERT program.

Exams & Make-up Exam

- No make-up exams will be given.
- You will be assigned a zero (0) for all missed exams. If you know you are to miss an exam, inform the professor as soon as possible and before the exam.
- Students will not be allowed to start an exam once the first exam has been turned in.
- During examinations your tabletop must be devoid of books, notes, calculators, cell phones, etc.
- Cell phones/earphones/i-pods/Laptops/etc, and text messaging are not allowed during class time or during an exam. Phones must be off and stored in a bag and off the table and off your pockets. Five points will be deducted from your final grade if you use any of these electronic devices. Let you know your instructor, at the beginning of class, if you need the cell phone (on vibrate) during lab exercise, and if you take a call during class, go outside to talk. Do not ever talk on the phone in class.
- For exams and final exam YOU MUST BRING A SCANTRON (Form No. 882-E). You are responsible of providing pencils, pen and eraser. Exams must be returned with the SCANTRON at the end of the exam.
- Students are not allowed to leave the classroom during exams. If you leave the class during an exam, you will lose the opportunity to complete the exam. If emergency make sure you bring a doctor’s note.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed during exams. All devices must be turned off and put away prior to the exam. If there is an emergency situation that requires flexibility in this policy, you must get approval from the instructor prior to the start of the exam.
- Absences: If I am given a notification within 24 hours of your absence, and a valid medical excuse is provided, I will justify your absence.
- Issues concerning examinations and grading will be addressed for one week after each exam is given, but not latter.

NOTE: “This syllabus is subject to change”. Any changes incorporated will be given to you in the lab class as soon as possible. Therefore, it is very important you attend all classes.

IMPORTANT:
Each student must complete and submit their own work at all times.
Failure to follow instructions on any assignment, participation, quiz or exam will result in a grade of zero (0).

The contents of this syllabus are subject to change. Any changes incorporated will be announced to you in class or Blackboard. Therefore, it is very Important you attend all classes and check Blackboard Announcements regularly.
# Marine Ecology 4426

**FALL 2017 Tentative Lecture Calendar***

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (Aug 30)</td>
<td>Primary Production Processes</td>
<td>1-2</td>
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<td>2 Wed (Sept 6)</td>
<td>Microbial Ecology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3 (Sept 11-13)</td>
<td>Secondary Production</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>4 (18-20)</td>
<td>M: Exam I</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Estuaries</td>
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<td>5 M W (25-27)</td>
<td>Rocky and Sandy Shores</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>6 (2-4)</td>
<td>Pelagic Ecosystems</td>
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<td>7 (9-11)</td>
<td>Continental shelf seabed</td>
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<td>8 (16-18)</td>
<td>M: Exam II</td>
<td>9-10</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The deep sea / Mangrove Forests and Seagrass Meadows</td>
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<td>9 (23-25)</td>
<td>Coral Reefs</td>
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<td>10 (30-1 Nov)</td>
<td>Polar Regions</td>
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<td>11 (6-8)</td>
<td>M: Exam III</td>
<td>13-14</td>
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<td>Fisheries and Aquaculture</td>
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<td>12 (13-15)</td>
<td>Disturbance Pollution and Climate change</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>13 (20-22)</td>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>14 (27-29)</td>
<td>Conservation- Journal Article discussion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Or Catch-up Lecture</td>
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<td>15 (4-6 Dec)</td>
<td>M: Exam IV</td>
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<td>W: Exam IV or study day</td>
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<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM (Exam V)- CUMULATIVE</td>
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* Exact Dates of subjects covered and all exams (except the final exam) are tentative and may change as needed to coincide with progress in course.

**UTRGV Policy Statements.**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.
If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:** Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Online evaluations will be available Nov. 18 – Dec. 9, 2015. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

**ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.
SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:  
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:  Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.  
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS:  
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.