UTRGV COURSE SYLLABUS

MARINE ECOLOGY 4426-01  Instructor: Dr. Lucia B. Carreon Martinez
FALL 2018  Telephone: NA (e-mail only)
Email: lucia.carreonmartinez@utrgv.edu  Office location: BLHSB 2.712
M-W 9:25-10:40 AM  Office hours: TBA
Lab W 10:50-1:30 PM

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
Three lecture exams 450 pts (150 pts each),
Research paper/Journal article presentation 100pts.
Debate Aquaculture Pro vs Con 120 pts
Laboratory points 300 pts:
   Lab Midterm exam 100 pts
   Lab Final Exam 100 pts
   Lab Report report 100 pts
Socrative app- attendance 50 pts

Maximum number of points for A (1000-900 pts), B (899-800 pts), C (799-700 pts), D (699- 600)

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).

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 lettergrades (A, B, C, D, or F).

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 2016 include:

August 27  First day of classes
Other Course Information

ATTENDANCE:
- **Students are required to attend all classes and all laboratory sessions, and must be on time** for pre-lecture quizzes and/or exams. 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 or quizzes will be given.** Quizzes: Socrative quizzes **CANNOT be made up**
- **You will be assigned a zero (0) for all missed exams or quizzes.** 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.** 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 class during exams and quizzes.** 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, but your quiz will not be taken into account.
- **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.
# Marine Ecology 4426
## FALL 2018 Tentative Lecture Calendar*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (29)</td>
<td>Intro to Marine Ecology</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lab 1</strong></td>
<td>Exploring and presenting a journal article. How to write a scientific laboratory report</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Debate rubric- team organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Wed (Sept 5)</td>
<td>Marine Water chemistry</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lab 2</strong></td>
<td>SPI: Measuring water quality- water treatment facility visit Physicochemical (temperature, conductivity, salinity, pH, DO) (HydroLab), light intensity (Licor), nutrients (NO3, NH4, PO4).</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 (Sept 10-12)</td>
<td>Primary and secondary production</td>
<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lab 3</strong></td>
<td>Lab: PLANKTON phytoplankton and zooplankton</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 (17-19 Sept)</td>
<td>Estuaries</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lab 4</strong></td>
<td>SPI: Aquatic plants macro algae and sea grasses</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 M W (24-26)</td>
<td>M: Exam I Wed: Mangrove Forests and Seagrass Meadow</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lab 5</strong></td>
<td>SPI: Epibiota of algae and sea grasses (ex 1 and 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 (1-3 Oct)</td>
<td>Rocky and Sandy Shores</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lab 6</strong></td>
<td>Lab: Benthic invertebrates dissection sea star, sea urchin, clams, kayaks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 (8-10 Oct)</td>
<td>Pelagic Ecosystems and Continental shelf seabed</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lab 7</strong></td>
<td>Lab: Dissection of shark and squid- predator adaptations</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 (15-17 Oct)</td>
<td>Coral reefs</td>
<td>9-10</td>
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<td><strong>Lab 8</strong></td>
<td>LAB MIDTERM and coral reef movie or kayaks.</td>
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<td>9 (22-24 Oct)</td>
<td>The deep sea</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lab 9</strong></td>
<td>Lab: SPI: Floating classroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 (29- 1 Nov)</td>
<td>M: Exam II W: Polar Regions</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lab 10</strong></td>
<td>Movie and JOURNAL ARTICLE PRESENTATIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 (5-7 Nov)</td>
<td>Fisheries and Aquaculture</td>
<td>13-14</td>
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<td><strong>Lab 11</strong></td>
<td>Lab: WED Field trip Gladys Porter zoo aquarium</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 (12-14 Nov)</td>
<td>Disturbance Pollution and Climate change</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td><strong>Lab 12</strong></td>
<td>Lab: Ocean Acidification</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 (19-21 Nov)</td>
<td>Conservation and Outreach</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lab 13</strong></td>
<td>SPI: Beach debris study- Due date for Lab report</td>
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<td><strong>Lab 14</strong></td>
<td>AQUACULTURE DEBATE</td>
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<td>15 (3-5 Dec)</td>
<td>M: Conservation- Journal Article discussion Wed: LAB FINAL EXAM</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM (optional)- 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:
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

Student Accessibility Services:
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 ability@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 ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:
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. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about:

Module 1 October 4 – 10
Module 2 November 29 – December 5
Full Fall Semester November 15 – December 5

ATTENDANCE: Recommended on all syllabi; may be modified by the instructor as long as it is not inconsistent with UTRGV policy.
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 (including self-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:
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 that is 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.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor's office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)