**UTRGV COURSE SYLLABUS**

MARINE ECOLOGY 4426-01  Instructor: Dr. Lucia B. Carreon Martinez  
FALL 2017  Telephone: NA (e-mail only)  
Email: lucia.carreonmartinez@utrgv.edu  Office location: LHSB 2.712  
Lecture M-W 9:25-10:40 AM  
Lab W 10:50-1:30 PM  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture Textbook and/or Resource Material</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michel J. Kaiser, Martin J. Attrill, Simon Jennings, David N. Thomas, and David K. A. Barnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISBN: 9780199227020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website companion: <a href="http://global.oup.com/uk/orc/biosciences/ecology/kaiser2e/">http://global.oup.com/uk/orc/biosciences/ecology/kaiser2e/</a></td>
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**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**

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 letter grades (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 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 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 will be given
- 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.
<table>
<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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<tr>
<td><strong>Lab 1</strong></td>
<td>Brownsville: Primary Producers under the microscope</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Wed (Sept 6)</td>
<td>Primary Production</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lab 2</strong></td>
<td>Brownsville: Zooplankton observations and key ID</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (Sept 11-13)</td>
<td>Secondary production and food webs</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lab 3 Sept 13</strong></td>
<td>SPI: Water quality at boardwalk convention center.</td>
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| 4 (18-20) | M: Exam 1  
W: Estuaries | 5 |
| **Lab 4 Sept 20th** | SPI: sediment collection and benthic organisms | |
| 5 M W (25-27) | M: Estuaries & Rocky and Sandy Shores  
W: Rocky and Sandy Shores | 6 |
| **Lab 5 Sept 27** | SPI: Sea Turtle Inc meeting 10:00 AM | |
| 6 (2-4 Oct) | M: Pelagic Ecosystems (Oct 3)  
W: Pelagic Ecosystems | 7 |
| **Lab 6 Oct 4th** | Brownsville Dissections- squid, clams, starfish, shark, - adaptations of pelagic organisms | |
| 7 (9-11) | M: Pelagic Ecosystems and Continental shelf seabed  
W: Continental shelf seabed (Oct 12) | 8 |
| **Lab 7 Oct 11th** | SPI: Kayak trip- qualitative analysis of sea grass beds and mangroves | |
| 8 (16-18) | M: Exam II  
W: Mangrove Forests and Seagrass Meadows | 9 |
| **Lab 8 Oct 18th** | SPI: Ridley Floating Classroom (Tentative) | |
| 9 (Oct 23-25) | M: The deep sea  
W: Coral Reefs | 10 |
| **Lab 9 Oct 25th** | LAB MIDTERM EXAM | |
| 10 (30-1 Nov) | M: Exam III  
W: Polar Regions | 12 |
| **Lab 10 Nov 1st** | Movie and JOURNAL ARTICLE PRESENTATIONS | |
| 11 (6-8) | M: Fisheries and Aquaculture | 13-14 |
| **Lab 11 Nov 8th** | Brownsville Field trip to Gladys Porter Zoo Aquarium | |
| 12 (13-15) | M: Disturbance Pollution and Climate change | 15 |
| **Lab 12 Nov 15th** | SPI: Beach debris study | |
| 13 (20-22) | M: Conservation and Outreach | 16 |
| **Lab 13 Nov 23rd** | Brownsville: Ocean acidification | |
| 14 (27-29 Nov) | Conservation- Journal Article discussion  
Or Catch-up Lecture | |
| **Lab 14 Nov 29th** | LAB FINAL EXAM- Due date for lab reports | |
| 15 (4-6 Dec) | M: Exam IV  
Wed: Final Exam review | |
| TBA | FINAL EXAM (Exam V)- CUMULATIVE | |

*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.*
U(TRGV) 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.