RESEARCH ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM SYLLABUS
SUMMER 2010
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – CORPUS CHRISTI (TAMUCC)
BIOL 4100 (TBA 10:00 – 12:00) ST-108

PROFESSORS:
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OFFICE HOURS: We are always available by appointment!

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is part of the NSF- and Department of Defense-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates program (SURF), the NSF-funded Undergraduate Mentoring in Environmental Biology program (BUENO) and the Department of Education Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program. The course has a non-standard meeting time and will be meeting from June 2 through August, 2010.

The course provides an introduction to scientific ethics, careers in science and skill development. Other activities, such as field trips, are part of the course.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: The student will (1) Build Career and Skills Development: Exploring potential careers; learning to write a professional resume, a personal statement for graduate school and a scientific abstract; understanding interviewing techniques; becoming certified in CPR, AED and First Aid; (2) Be able to describe Ethical Conduct: Reporting experimental design, data collection methods, data included, and interpersonal interactions; and (3) Be competent in Presentation Skills: Design and deliver an effective PowerPoint presentation.

At the conclusion of this course, the student will have: (1) Completed the online safety program and passed the safety test; (2) Completed certification in CPR, AED and First Aid; (3) Discussed experimental design; (4) Prepared a professional resume; (5) Written a personal statement for graduate school; (6) Become cognizant of ethical guidelines in science; (7) Become familiar with careers in science and interviewing techniques; (8) Submitted a professional abstract; and (9) Designed and delivered a professional PowerPoint presentation.


MATERIALS: Binder; all materials are posted on WebCT

COMPUTER ACCESS: Use of the computer is a major part of this course. This will include use of email, WWW, and various MS Office programs. In addition, you are required to subscribe to WebCT. Computers are available for student use in twelve computer labs around campus. The campus Computer Lab is located in Corpus Christi Hall – Room 200 – and contains 100 computers. This lab is staffed with help personnel and has very generous operating hours. Each student has a computer account set up by the university that is available from the first day of class. Call the computer help line at x2692 for more information.

DISABILITY AND VETERANS’ SERVICES: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to providing persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to access campus facilities, resources and programs. 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. Support and accommodations are also available for returning veterans who experience cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus. Our Office of Disability Services arranges such support and academic accommodations. To make a request, or
for more information, call (361) 825-5816 or visit Driftwood 101. It is important to contact the Office of Disability Services in a timely fashion as it will take time for them to review requests and prepare accommodations and accommodation letters.

**STUDENT OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY EMAIL:** TAMUCC provides each student with an email address. Students who use any other email address will be responsible for any missed lecture, exam, lab or other information pertaining to this class and/or university associated information.

**GRADE COMPUTATION:** There are no opportunities for make-up work. Your grade is the sum of the following activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety Certification</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>June 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resume*</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>June 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Statement*</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>July 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract Submission*</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>July 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symposium Presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>August 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Weekly Reflections</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Every Friday**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity Participation:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Aid, CPR, AED</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>June 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Padre Island</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>June 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARK</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>June 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>July 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands Excursion</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>July 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Station/Diving</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>July 16</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
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* Late submissions will lose two points/day late.

**Safety Certification:** Each student must complete the online safety course because you cannot work in the lab without this certification. A copy of your certification is due June 7 to Dr. Strychar.

**Resume:** You will learn how to prepare a professional, one-page resume. You will receive good and bad resumes, which we will discuss in class. We will also distribute the correct formatting for producing a professional resume. Then, you will submit your resume on June 26.

**Personal Statement:** Every graduate school requires a personal statement as part of the application process. The personal statement is generally two pages, double-spaced and describes why you want to attend the school, plus the characteristics, attributes, experiences and attitudes that make you a good candidate for graduate school. The personal statement is a very important part of the application, and allows the applicant to present a picture of himself/herself as a real person, not just a standardized test score and GPA.

Using the information and tips learned in our class you will prepare a 500-word personal statement for graduate school. Essays you used for college entrance are not appropriate, even for revising. Start fresh – you’ve come a long way. Follow the formatting guidelines below. Be sure to include your name on your submission. Your personal statement is due July 1.

**Some info about formatting your personal statement:** Double spaced, One-inch margins, 12 point, Spelling and grammar count. Do NOT put your essay in a folder or plastic holder. Just staple the pages. Be sure to include your name.

**Abstract:** You will submit an abstract of the oral presentation that you will deliver at the SURF Symposium. The abstract is due July 29. We will discuss producing a scientific abstract in class and you will use that information and the handouts to produce your abstract.
**Symposium Presentation:** Each student will deliver a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation at the SURF Symposium on August 5th. You should allow approximately 15 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions. You should have your presentation completed by Friday, July 23. You will sign up to deliver your presentation to Drs. Strychar and Chopin on Friday, July 23 or Monday July 26.

**Weekly Reflection:** Each Friday (June 4th – July 30) you will email Dr. Strychar a one-page computer generated (one inch margins, 11 point, double spaced) description of what you did and learned that week. Include what was important or not important to you in your reflection. Be sure to put your name and the date on your reflection. Late reflections (at 12 am or later) will not be accepted.

**Activity Participation:** There are several activities that are part of this course. Your participation in the activities listed on Fridays in the table above is expected.

**GRADING SCALE:** A = 200 – 180; B = 179 – 160; C = 169 – 140; D = 140 – 120; F = 119 – 0

**THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP GRADES:** Disrespectful behavior to the instructor(s) or other persons in the class, including comments made on class assignments, will NOT be tolerated and may result in expulsion from the class. All students are expected to conform to college level standards of ethics, academic integrity, grammar and spelling, plagiarism, cheating, etc. Review the appropriate pages of the TAMUCC catalog and TAMUCC student handbook. In choosing to take this course, you are agreeing to abide by the course rules, regulations, and standards as set forth in this syllabus. Should you have concerns or questions, you are to discuss them with the professor(s) as soon as possible. As a result of enrolling in this course, you are bound by these rules, regulations and standards from the first day of class throughout the duration of the course. Lastly, I reserve the right to change topics covered, syllabus schedule and exam dates as needed.

**GRADE APPEALS:** As stated in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi University Rules and Procedures (Section B [Academic Program], Part 13 [Students]: 13.02.99.C2 [Student Grade Appeals] and 13.02.99C2.01 [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 on 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, consult the University Rules and Procedures specified above (accessible through the University Rules and Procedures website at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html)). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**CLASS STANDARDS:** Since you are all adults, you will be treated as such. You are expected to be on time and attend every class, including the research sessions.

**FIELD TRIP CLOTHES/SUPPLIES**

**CPR, AED, First Aid:** Comfortable clothes to get down on floor

**Kayaking:** T-shirt and shorts, Hat, Towel, Sunscreen

**Padre Island National Seashore:** T-shirt and shorts, Bathing suit and cover up, Hat, Towel, Sunscreen, Beach shoes, flip flops or tennis shoes, Money for souvenirs, Camera

**Wetlands Explorer:** Field shoes: You will be getting wet up to your knees and will be walking in muddy seagrass, Sunscreen/bug spray, Camera
AGENDA: Also see the expanded agenda

June 02  10 am – noon
Welcome
Research Ethics and Professionalism
How to write a professional resume
1:30 pm:  Campus tour & Housekeeping
3:00 pm: Meet the faculty & staff
5:00 pm: Tour of downtown, Surf Museum & Executive Surf Club (SURFers)

June 03  10 am: - noon: Research Ethics and Professionalism
How to write a personal statement
Homework: Begin reading the two textbooks, Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research and A Student Handbook for Writing in Biology
1:30 PM: Library Orientation with Ed Kownslar, Library Room 109
Handbook: Read Chapter 2 prior to the orientation

June 04  10 am: - noon: Research Ethics and Professionalism
Careers in Science
Ethics in Science: Introduction to The Responsible Conduct of Research
Fabrication, falsification and plagiarism: Chapter 2 & p. 43-45 in Student Handbook
Conflict of interest: Chapter 5
Informed consent: Chapter 3
Animal Welfare: Chapter 4
Interpersonal relations: Chapters 9 and 10

1:00 PM: Lunch
Complete Evaluation 1

2:00 PM: Introduction to Diving