Fisheries (BIOL 4428)
Syllabus
Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi
Lecture: T/R 12:30 – 1:45 Lab: R 1:45-4:20

Professor:
Dr. Greg Stunz
Office: HRI 213A; 825-3254
greg.stunz@tamucc.edu

Office Hours: T/R 10:00 - 12:00, or I am always available by appointment!

Lab Coordinator: Megan Reese (megan.reese@tamucc.edu); HRI 213; 825-2028
Office Hours: Thur. 10:00 – 12:00, or by appointment.

Class Objectives/Description:
Advanced study of theory and techniques in fisheries science including behavior of fisheries populations and applications to resource management with emphasis in tidal-influenced waters. Includes readings in the current literature and a research project. The lab will emphasize practical sampling design and data interpretation.

Major Areas of Study:
I. The World’s Fisheries
II. Stock Assessment
III. Fisheries Population Dynamics and Observing Fish Populations
IV. Environmental Governance of the Sea
V. Human Dimension of Fisheries Science
VI. Ecosystem-Based Management and Essential Fish Habitat
VII. Fisheries Models - Ricker, B/H, VPA, and Catch-at-Age

WebCT (http://webct.tamucc.edu) is your online course management system.
If you already have a working TAMU-CC Student Computer Account, use your current User ID (“first initial followed by your last name” e.g. “gstunz”; and your personal password (initial password will be your birth date “05031980”) to log in via the Island Online Link on the TAMUCC home page. If you have a common username already existing it will be numerically incremented so that is unique (e.g. jsmith01, jsmith02, etc.). If you don’t have a working student account, run “New User” can be located at the following website: https://banner.tamucc.edu/ID/

Texts (Required):

- Extensive reading will also be required from journals, newspapers, magazines, and other library holdings.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA:

Your grade will be calculated as a percentage of 500 available points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Lecture Exams (100 pts ea)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMP (Plan and Presentation 50 ea.)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation (50 ea.)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab (Participation, Reports, Assignments)</td>
<td>100</td>
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**GRADING SCALE (%):**

- 90.0 - 100.0 = A
- 80.0 - 89.9 = B
- 70.0 - 79.9 = C
- 60.0 - 69.9 = D
- 0.0 - 59.9 = F

**Laboratories:**

Labs will be held for 3 hours immediately following lectures each Thursday. We will be doing various activities in lab including presentations, experiments, and local/regional mandatory field trips. Details will be discussed in lab.

**Course Projects:**

You will be assigned three major projects during the semester. Details for these projects will be discussed in class. These assignments are briefly described below.

1. **Topic Presentation:**

   A major focus of this course will be a review of the current literature. Students will be assigned to specific groups to address one of the discussion topics assigned during class. The discussion will be lead by your graduate student leaders. You are expected to thoroughly investigate the topic by compiling the most current research and review journal articles concerning the issue (preferably review papers). During class you will participate in the discussion of the selected topic. Ideally, you will discuss the general background of the topic area and the major issues including differing viewpoints. **Key articles must be provided to classmates two weeks prior to presentation.**

2. **Microtheme**

   You may prepare 2 microthemes of the topic presentations for extra credit in the form of a succinctly written 1-page, double-spaced report. Think extensively about what you want to say, and outline it before you start to write. Feel free to discuss the assignment with other students; however, your microtheme should be written independently. The purpose of the microtheme is to give these persons a clear overview of the topic’s main points. See handout for details.

3. **Fisheries Management Plan:**

   Using the guidelines presented in class prepare a Fisheries Management Plan or amend a current plan for a species of your choice. You will prepare an oral and written presentation of your Management Plan before the “Fisheries Management Council (Class)” (15 minutes, 5 minutes for Q&A). Ability to explain and defend your plan to the Mock FMC will be the major focus of the presentation.