## Mycology

**Spring 2008**

**Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi**

**BIOL 5407 (TR 09:30 – 10:45) CS-234**

### Professors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Laboratory</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Kevin Strychar</td>
<td>Dr. Stella Doyungan</td>
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### Office Hours (Strychar):

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:45 – 12:45; I am always available by appointment!

### Course Description:

This course is an overview of the fungi, including their characteristics, diversity and ecology. Interactions between fungi and other organisms are explored, along with the role and importance of the fungi in ecosystems. This course covers topics of a diverse nature: ecological principles, biodiversity, air/water pollution, and environmental toxicology. As part of the lab, students will be required to identify important fungal families and particular characteristics associated with each group. After taking this course, the student will be able to discuss concepts relevant to fungi and the environment.

Graduate students will be required to write a research manuscript characterizing one specific aspect of fungal diseases, fungi used in industry, or human applications of fungi as approved by the instructor – the required research paper will be due March 13th and submitted at the beginning of class – the research manuscript will be worth 50 points of the students final Lecture Grade. Graduate students will also be required to present their research manuscript as a presentation/lecture, which will be scheduled during the last two weeks of class. Oral presentations will be worth 50 points of the students final Lecture Grade.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

Graduate students will develop a deeper knowledge of fungal physiology, biology, and ecology; students will be able to recognize the significant groups of fungi, and major types of disease associated with these organisms; graduates will be comfortable in discussing the economic value of fungi in the environment, their exploitation by humans, and the medical importance they have to society; students will also develop the necessary skills to study fungi from different sources and be able to identify characteristic fungal structures.

### Textbook:


### 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.

### Student Learning Disabilities:

Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible. Please have your accommodation letter from Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi Disability Services (DS) Office with you when you come see me. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Disability Services Office (located in Driftwood 101) at 825-5816.

### Student Official University Email:

Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi 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:  
Laboratory average (reports, quizzes, practicals, etc.) .................. 1/4 of course grade  
Lecture average ......................................................... 3/4 of course grade

The lecture average will be determined on a 400 point scale:

- 3 Lecture exams (100 points each) .................. 300
- Comprehensive final exam ................................. 100
- Research manuscript ........................................ 50
- Oral presentation ............................................. 50

In addition, there will be 10 in-class bonus quizzes (= 100 points) that will be given randomly without prior notice during the term. The accumulated points from each correct answer on each quiz will be applied as “bonus” to your overall lecture average. For example, if you have 280 total points (i.e. after taking the final exam), your lecture grade would normally be calculated as 280/400=70%. In this class, if you receive an additional 75 bonus points, your grade will be calculated as (280 + 75)/400=89%. Further, the bonus quizzes will be used to help determine your attendance in this course. If you miss 5 or more bonus quizzes, your final grade will be reduced by one letter grade (i.e. from an A to a B). If you miss all 10 quizzes, your final grade will be reduced by two letter grades (i.e. from A to C). **Make-ups for quizzes will not be given for missing class.** As a student, if you decide to have your exam re-marked or re-assessed you must do so within ten business days starting from when the exam grades are posted.

Lastly, the use of microphones, tape-recordings, video equipment, and/or cameras of any sort are not permitted during lecture or during any of the exams. **ANY** interruption caused by an electronic device (e.g. cell phone or beeper) during an exam will result in an automatic F (fail) for the individual(s) writing that particular exam. In addition, during lecture, any interruption of a cell phone or beeper will result in automatic dismissal of that person for the remainder of that lecture. Cheating at any time will result in an F in the course.

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

THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP GRADES*: For those students who do not miss any exams (including quizzes), your final exam grade will be doubled to replace your lowest exam grade (assuming that this improves your overall grade). However, doubling of your final exam grade to replace your lowest exam grade will not apply if you receive an F due to interruption of an electronic device (cell phone, beeper, etc.). A missed quiz or in-class exercise cannot be made up.

*Students with a university approved scheduled absence (athletics, military duty, etc.) MUST contact the professors well in advance of a scheduled absence (i.e. at least 72 hrs in advance – there are no exceptions). Exams may be taken early in those specific cases. Students who do not arrange to take exams ahead of time will not be eligible for this special consideration. A written excuse from the university department involved or the Office of the Dean of Students is required. 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.

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 laboratory sessions. If absent, it is your responsibility to obtain missed information from a classmate. Missed information includes not only lecture notes, but also any possible information regarding syllabus changes. You are expected to arrive on time prepared to take notes, i.e., with pen, paper, and colored markers/pencils. Safety rules in lecture and lab will be strictly followed. **Previewing the appropriate chapter in the textbook ahead of time is a standing class assignment, and periodic quizzes given will cover this material!**

Biology Lab (CS234 1-3 pm): Dr. Stella Doyungan will provide a syllabus at the first scheduled lab meeting.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS
The schedule below is a preliminary semester outline. Please note that this schedule including exam times, is subject to changes, which will be announced in class. Responsibility to keep up with changes, assignments etc. lies with the student. This outline delineates the topics to be covered. The sequence may be adjusted to coordinate with the lab schedule. It is your responsibility to keep up with changes to this outline.

### Week | Topic | Chapter
---|---|---
1 | Syllabus, introductory comments |  
2 | Introductory Mycology – Part I | Chapter 1
3 | Introductory Mycology – Part II | Chapter 1
4 | Protozoa: Myxomycota (slime molds) | Chapter 2
5 | Straminipila: Oomycota | Chapter 5
6 | Chytridiomycota | Chapter 6
7 | Zygomyctota | Chapter 7
8 | February 28th – 1st Term Exam |  
9 | Ascomycota – Part I | Chapter 8
10 | SPRING BREAK (March 17 to March 21) |  
11 | Ascomycota – Part II | Chapter 8
12 | Basidiomycota – Part I | Chapter 18
13 | Basidiomycota – Part II | Chapter 18
14 | April 1st – 2nd Term Exam |  
15 | Fungal Ecology, Diseases, and Uses by Humans |  
16 | Graduate Presentations |  
17 | Graduate Presentations |  
18 | April 29th – 3rd Term Exam |  

**Important Dates for the Fall Semester of 2004:** The 3 Term Exams are on February 28th, April 1st, April 29th. The Final Exam Schedule will be announced at a later date.