Fisheries Biology (BIOL 5428/MARB 6428.001)
Syllabus – Spring 2010
Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi
Lecture: T/R 12:30 – 1:45 (CS 114) Lab: R 1:45-4:20 (CS 240)

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

Office Hours: T/R 10:00 - 12:30, or I am always available by appointment!

Lab Coordinator: Megan Robillard (megan.robillard@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

Student Learning Outcomes:
• Establish future leaders and professionals with an in-depth marine fisheries education
• Educate future leaders and professionals with specialized skills by teaching methods of collecting, interpreting, analyzing, and presenting scientific data both orally and written
• Enable future leaders and professionals to contribute to the profession

WebCT (http://webct.tamucc.edu):
This website is your online course management system for BIOL/MARB 5428/6428. It will include course notes, syllabus, and other information. If you have a working TAMU-CC Student Computer Account, use your current Islander ID (“first initial followed by your last name” e.g. “gstunz”; and your personal password (use “birthdate with 4-digit year”. Contact Web Ct helpdesk at 361-825-2825 for log-in issues.
Texts (Recommended and Highly Encouraged):

- 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:

- 2 Lecture Exams (100 pts ea) 200
- FMP (Plan and Presentation; 50 ea.) 100
- Topic Presentation and Microtheme (70/30) 100
- Lab (Participation, Reports, Assignments) 100

**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 Tuesday. We will be doing various activities in lab including presentations, experiments, and local/regional mandatory field trips. Details will be discussed in laboratory.

**Course Projects:**

You will be assigned two 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. 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 lead the discussion of the selected topic. Ideally, you give the general background of the topic area and then discuss major issues including differing viewpoints. **Key articles must be provided to classmates two weeks prior to presentation.**

2. **Microtheme**

   You will prepare 3 microthemes (15 pts ea; 1 dropped) for each of the topic presentations 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 or 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.

*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.

**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.