

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lani Lyman-Henley **Cell phone:** 972-571-1042 (text ok)
email: dr_zot@yahoo.com (preferred) or lani.lyman-henley@tamuc.edu
Office: STC 237 (Science & Technology Center) **Office Phone:** 903-886-5372
Animal Care Facility: STC 254 **ACF Phone:** 903-886-5249
Course Website: at eCollege **Home Phone:** 972-722-1568
Office Hours: MTWF 11-12; email & Virtual Office anytime

REQUIRED TEXT:

Biology of the Invertebrates, 7th Ed. Pechenik. 2014.

ISBN: 978-0073524184 (Regular version, amazon.com, etc.)

Note that the TAMUC bookstore has a less expensive paperback version of this textbook available. It is also available as an e-book from amazon.com. I'm ok with students purchasing ebooks or renting to reduce expense. Do note that it is strongly recommended that you use the current editions of the texts as listed, but this one does retain the same basic organization as the last edition.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: "A study of advanced contemporary knowledge in invertebrate zoology."

COURSE FORMAT: This is a "web-based" course- that is, you don't actually attend a lecture class. Instead, you do your work via our **eCollege** site- enter through your MyLeo page. Check the website frequently (I'd recommend daily!) for announcements, instructions, and discussion; the closest thing to a lecture or office hours you'll get from me will be in the eCollege discussion boards or via email. Try navigating the site early so you know that you can access everything. If you have difficulty with the material, talk to me *as soon as you can* for advice on how best to improve. I can't stress enough how important it is to keep up with the material...with this much reading and writing, it can be really difficult to catch up if you fall behind!

MATERIAL AND GRADING: This course is partially self-paced: there are periods in which you need to complete given portions of the work, but you can schedule your specific work times as pleases you- and don't forget the website is still active at night, on holidays and weekends. The material for this class will be organized around content blocks. Please see the Topic folders in the Discussion Forum for guidance through specific materials. Each section will have a Commentary devoted to guiding you through the material to study- read that **first, then** work any assignments given as you study the material. Much of your progress will be tracked in the form of posting commentaries of your own to the Discussion boards, and responding to the postings of other students. The bulk of the work will be an assortment of written Exercises, papers and "take-home" style tests (all of which will be detailed in separate handouts/postings), as well as such discussion of your readings of the assigned materials. The nature of some of these exercises/assignments will be structured based on the student group in the class (for example, some in-person lab or field exercises may be offered if enough students could meet on campus for them). Final grades will be based on a 10% scale compared to the total points available in the class. Assume for now that about 1/3 of the points will be based each on discussion and exercises, exams, and papers.

Late or Make-Up Work: Since there are no actual class meetings or sit-down exam periods, there really isn't any use for "make-up" work. All work will have a deadline posted; assignments MAY be accepted late, but will be penalized heavily on an increasing scale (the later it is, the more points it loses). Please contact me immediately if you are "absent" long enough to miss any due dates, but in general I strongly recommend planning ahead to avoid such problems. Obtain a calendar or planner for the semester, and USE IT. Extreme circumstances will always be taken into consideration- TALK TO ME before you assume anything.

STARTING NOTES: Oddly enough, we are going basically in the order the main text is organized in, so you can start at the beginning! Please DO read the Preface of the text before starting the chapters. Be sure to explore the class site at eCollege...we are using a shell constructed for an earlier semester of this class, so pay attention to the first line, noting if this page is updated yet. Use the first couple of days to get your "e-feet"- learn to navigate the site, and jump right in with the first discussions of the early chapters as directed. If you find any of the underlying biological concepts unfamiliar, please let me know promptly so I can help you get up to speed.

Do remember that this is a GRADUATE level course, and therefore you will be expected to show appropriate levels of effort. You will be responsible for textbook readings, plus assorted outside readings as assigned (again, visit eCollege frequently for guidance), you will be expected to take part in discussions in a mature and in-depth manner, to write in a clear and professional voice, and you should not need excessive amounts of instructor "hand-holding."

A BIT ON ORGANIZATION: We'll start right in with the first section of the text while folks get used to the structure of the course. I'm including the last chapter of the text (Ch. 24) near the beginning of the course, as it goes along with Ch. 1 & 2 in being general biological principles- you may need to look ahead for a few terms, but I think you'll find the discussion helpful in understanding aspects of the varying groups as we get to them later. Be sure to read the materials posted at eCollege under the first block of material, so you learn how to find assignments, post your work, and other such skills.

You'll see the text is organized at eCollege into 8 "Blocks" of material that goes well together. By the end of the second week you should have started Block 2, and thus begun going through the Chapters dealing with the phylogenetic groups of invertebrates. Some chapters may take less time to complete than others- my basic recommendation is to review to take a bit less than 2 weeks per Block (I do have a recommended pace posted below). Don't panic about every detail - be able to recognize important themes and concepts, and be able to focus in on specifics when needed (such as in discussion questions and written work).

Another aspect of the course that I'll introduce after a few days will be the written projects, exercises, and/or papers. You will be required to complete a minimum number of these items. I do hope to offer some opportunities to engage in lab and/or field oriented activities that can be used towards this part of the class- but details will have to wait until I know how many folks are able to take advantage of such things. So, a little patience for the details, but I want you to know what to expect.

RESOURCES:

Hopefully you no longer need the types of services provided by the **Academic Success Center** services, which include tutoring and workshops (including such topics as "Managing Test Anxiety"), but here's the link:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/AcademicSuccessCenter/default.aspx> .

Those of you who are GAT's may want to point your own students this way!

And of course the Academic Calendar, which does include information regarding University holidays, deadlines to add, drop, withdraw, and other such activities. This page also

includes the link to each semester's Final Exam schedule (which may also be useful for your other courses): <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/academicCalendars/>

There will be an assortment of online resources posted as you go through the material at eCollege, and you will likely find more on your own. If you find particularly good resources, please feel free to share with the class.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS*

PART 1: Weeks 1-5 (Jan. 20-Feb. 22) - BLOCKS 1-3

Ch. 1, 2, 24 Intro, Environments, Relationships & Reproduction (yes, in this order)

Ch. 3, 4 Protists, Poriferans & Placozoans,

Ch. 5, 6, 7 Hydrostatics, Cnidarians, & Ctenophores

Exam 1

PART 2: Weeks 6 – 11 (Feb. 23-Apr. 5) – Blocks 4-6

Ch. 8-11 Platyhelminths, Mesozoans, Gnathifera & Nemertines

Ch. 12-13 Molluscs & Annelids

Ch. 14-15 Arthropods, Tardigrades & Onychophorans,

Exam 2

PART 3: Weeks 12-15 (Apr. 6– May 8 [last day of class]) – Blocks 7 & 8

CH. 16-19 Nematodes & likely relatives, Oddballs & Lophophorates

CH. 20-23 Echinoderms, Hemichordates, Xenoturbellids & invertebrate Chordates

Exam 3 (Finals Period)

*This schedule is a general outline for your reference and is subject to change. Note that only the main textbook chapters have been listed; additional readings may be required (check website for specifics). Any changes will be announced in class (at the course website); you will be responsible for keeping up with them. *Note* that precise times of topics and reading assignments will be updated regularly at the eCollege page- you are responsible for keeping up with them.

OTHER NOTES (INCLUDING OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS/AKA: THE FINE PRINT)

It is the responsibility of the student to inform me of any problems you may have affecting your performance in class, be it due to professionally diagnosed disability, personal or work-related problems, or anything else that comes up, so that appropriate adjustments can be made.

Students with Disabilities:

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. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148**

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu (or visit

<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/default.aspx>

Regarding student conduct

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.” Please be advised that students who are disruptive to class activities will be dropped from the class and may face further disciplinary action.

Plagiarism

“*Plagiarism* is a criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information. Unreferenced copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs or entire articles, will result in a score of zero for your essay and can result in further disciplinary action.” Note that this is true throughout the University and we do have plagiarism-detecting software in place. Of special note in an online environment- “cut and paste” from websites without appropriate citation IS plagiarism, yet putting everything in quotation marks is not an acceptable alternative. You must learn to construct your own sentences with information you find (and changing a couple of words in a sentence or reordering sentences in a paragraph are not enough). If you have any questions about what is considered plagiarism or wish advice on avoiding it, please contact your instructor.

As many of you are (or plan to be) teachers and academics, you may find the following recent discussion about plagiarism interesting and/or helpful: <http://wpacouncil.org/node/9>