

Course Changes

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Texas A&M University
Departmental Request for a Change in Course
Undergraduate ♦ Graduate ♦ Professional

MAR 22 2013

• Submit original form and attachments •

GRADUATE STUDIES

1. Request submitted by (Department or Program Name): Department of Marine Biology

2. Course prefix, number and complete title of course: MARB 654 Coastal Plant Ecology

Attach a brief supporting statement for changes made to items 3a thru 3d, and 6 below.

- 3. Change requested
a. Prerequisite(s): From: To:
b. Withdrawal (reason):
c. Cross-list with:

Cross-listed courses require the signature of both department heads.

- d. Change in course title and description. Enter complete current course title and current course description in item 5; enter proposed course title and proposed course description in item 6. Complete item 7 for change in title.
e. Change in course number, contact hours (lab & lecture), and semester credit hours. Complete item 7. Attach a course syllabus.
4. For informational purposes only, please indicate course number if this course will be stacked: MARB 430

5. Complete current course title and current catalog course description:
654. COASTAL PLANT ECOLOGY. (3-3). Credit 4. Study of estuarine, coastal and dune plant communities and associated environmental factors affecting plants including the identification, distribution, ecological importance and management techniques of vascular plants in these communities.

6. Complete proposed course title and proposed catalog course description (not to exceed 50 words):
654. COASTAL PLANT ECOLOGY. (3-0). Credit 3. Study of estuarine, coastal and dune plant communities and associated environmental factors affecting plants including the identification, distribution, ecological importance and management techniques of vascular plants in these communities.

7. a. As currently in course inventory:

Table with columns: Prefix, Course #, Title, Lect., Lab, SCH, CIP and Fund Code, Admin. Unit, FICE Code, Level. Row 1: M A R B 6 5 4 C O A S T A L P L A N T E C O L O G Y, 0 3 0 3 0 4, 0 1 0 2 9 8

b. Change to:

Table with columns: Prefix, Course #, Title, Lect., Lab, SCH, CIP and Fund Code, Admin. Unit, Acad. Year, FICE Code, Level. Row 1: M A R B 6 5 4 C O A S T A L P L A N T E C O L O G Y, 0 3 0 0 0 3 2 6 1 3 0 1 0 0 0 2 1 8 0 5 1 4 1 5 0 1 0 2 9 8

Approval recommended by:

Department Head or Program Chair (Type Name & Sign) Date: 3/13/13
Chair, College Review Committee Date: 3/21/13
Department Head or Program Chair (Type Name & Sign) Date: 3/21/13
Dean of College Date: 3/21/13
Submitted to Coordinating Board by: Chair, GC or UCC Date: 4-17-13
Associate Director, Curricular Services Date Effective Date

MARB 689 (654): COASTAL PLANT ECOLOGY
DISTANCE EDUCATION OPTION 3 CREDITS FALL 2013

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Anna Armitage
Office: OCSB 259
Office Phone: 409-740-4842
Email: armitaga@tamug.edu
Office hours: TR 1215-100 or by appointment

LECTURES

Room TBD Tuesday & Thursday 1100am-1215pm

Students can elect to attend lectures in person or view lectures online at any time after the posted class time.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will cover several aspects of coastal plant ecology, including life histories, stress adaptations, competition, and trophic support. Students will learn the morphology, taxonomy, and ecology of higher plant species from local wetlands, dunes, and coastal marine habitats. We will discuss and analyze applied and management issues such as anthropogenic impacts, habitat restoration, and wetland delineation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

In this course, students will:

- Gain a broad understanding of the ecology, functions, and management of vegetated coastal habitats
- Identify local coastal plants
- Discuss and analyze current issues in coastal management
- Improve critical analysis and writing skills

PREREQUISITES

- Graduate status in Marine Biology or a related program
- A functional e-mail account and access to the internet and TAMU eLearning.

TEXTBOOKS

There are no required textbooks; the following suggested text supplements course lectures and will be available at the TAMUG bookstore.

Armitage, A.R. 2011. *Common Dune and Salt Marsh Plants of the Upper Texas Gulf Coast*.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- TAMU eLearning: posted lecture and lab notes, posted grades, email announcements, discussions
- Coastal Plant Guide wiki (beta version): An abridged version of *Common Dune and Salt Marsh Plants of the Upper Texas Gulf Coast* <http://wikis.tamu.edu/x/2g0dAQ>
- TAMUG Writing lab: writinglab@tamug.edu 409-741-4356 Williams Library 108

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Lectures can be attended in person, or recorded lectures will be available online within one day of class. Exams and quizzes can be taken in person during lecture periods or on online. There will be ~3 online discussion sessions during the course; participation in these discussions is required. The discussions will be scheduled in accordance with the students' availability.

MAKEUP POLICIES

- As a rule, exams will not be given at any time other than the scheduled exam time. Exceptions will be made only in extreme extenuating circumstances. Papers or exams in other classes are not valid excuses for rescheduling exams.
- **A grade of 0 will be given for exams, quizzes, or discussions missed without an approved excuse.**
- **Late assignments will be marked down 10% per day unless you have made prior arrangements with the Dr. Armitage.**
- The instructor is not obligated to accept or grade work that is turned in more than seven days late without a valid excuse.

If you're not sure about any of these policies, please see Dr. Armitage *before* it's too late to solve your problem.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Honor Code, based on the long-standing affirmation that "An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do," is fundamental to the value of the A&M experience. As such, it is the responsibility of students and faculty members to help maintain scholastic integrity at the University by refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonesty. The Aggies' Code of Honor and the Scholastic Dishonesty section in the TAMUG University Rules (<http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>) will be the standard upon which scholastic integrity is maintained in this course. Academic dishonesty infractions will result in failure of this course as a minimum sanction.

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/>, under the section "Scholastic Dishonesty."

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination 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 believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Student Counseling and discuss your disability with your instructors on the first day of class. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

STUDENT RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND REGULATIONS:

Students should be familiar with the University Regulations, which can be obtained from the Office of Student Services.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL AND RIGHTS TO PRIVACY ACT (FERPA):

FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of educational records. All efforts will be made in this class to protect your confidentiality. Please consult the Admissions and Records Office for further information.

COPYRIGHT POLICY

All materials used in this class are copyrighted. These materials include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, take-home assignments, in-class materials, and lab materials. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless permission is expressly granted.

GRADING

• Reports from discussion sessions (~3)	300
• Online discussion participation	100
• Quizzes	50
• Midterm 1	100
• Midterm 2	100
• Midterm 3	100
• Midterm 4	(100)
• <u>Final (cumulative)</u>	<u>150</u>
TOTAL	900

Important note: There will be four midterm exams; the lowest grade of the four will be dropped and not counted as part of your total grade. If you miss an exam for any reason, that can be your dropped grade. Keep in mind, however, that you are still responsible for the material, since the final is both required and cumulative.

Grading scale:

≥ 90% = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

≤ 59 = F

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE!)

I. Introduction

- A. Terminology & plant anatomy
- B. Photosynthesis
- C. The coastal environment

Midterm 1

- D. Habitat introductions

II. Biogeochemistry

- A. Nutrient cycles
- B. Climate change

Midterm 2

- C. Eutrophication/wastewater management

III. Ecology

- A. Ecological interactions
- B. Diversity
- C. Food webs

Midterm 3

VI. Applied ecology

- A. Ecosystem services
- B. Impacts
- C. Invasive species

Midterm 4

- D. Policy & management
- E. Restoration

Final (cumulative)