



MARB 654: COASTAL PLANT ECOLOGY, 3 CREDITS

FALL 2018

Meeting times and location: Lectures posted online 2x/week. Location: Any internet terminal.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

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.

COURSE PREREQUISITE

- Graduate status in Marine Biology IDP or a related program

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Recall how ecological paradigms apply to coastal plant communities
- Explain the role of ecological principles in ecosystem management
- Write a critical analysis of current issues in coastal plant ecology and management

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Anna Armitage

OCSB 259

409-740-4842

armitaga@tamug.edu

Office hours: By appointment

REQUIRED RESOURCES

- A university e-mail account and access to the internet
- TAMU eCampus: posted lecture notes and recordings, grades, exams, announcements
- There are no required textbooks

ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP POLICIES

Lectures can be attended in person, or recorded lectures will be available online within ~one day of class. Exams will be administered through eCampus.

Information concerning absences is contained in the University Student Rules Section 7 (http://www.tamug.edu/stulife/Academic_Rules/7_Attendance.html). The University views class attendance as an individual student responsibility. All students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments. Please consult the University Student Rules for reasons for excused absences, detailed procedures and deadlines as well as student grievance procedures (Part III, Section 45). The student is responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to the instructor to substantiate the reason for the absence. Failure to notify and/or document properly may result in an unexcused absence. Falsification of documentation is a violation of the Honor Code.

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 or assignments 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 INTEGRITY

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do."

For additional information please visit: <http://www.tamug.edu/HonorSystem>

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

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 believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Counseling Office, Seibel Student Center, or call (409)740-4587. For additional information visit <http://www.tamug.edu/counsel/Disabilities.html>.

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 (2)	100
• Lecture exam 1	100
• Lecture exam 2	100
• Lecture exam 3	100
• Lecture exam 4	100
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TOTAL	500

Grading scale:

≥ 90% (≥ 450 points) = A	80-89% (400-449 points) = B	70-79% (350-399 points) = C
60-69% (300-349 points) = D	≤ 59% (≤ 299 points) = F	

IMPORTANT DATES

Lecture exam 1:	Thursday, September 13
Lecture exam 2:	Tuesday, October 9
Lecture exam 3:	Tuesday, October 30
Q-drop:	November 16
Thanksgiving holiday:	November 22-23
Lecture exam 4:	Friday, December 7

Due dates of reports will be posted on eCampus.

****Exam dates are approximate – there will be a window of several hours available on or near those dates to take exams. Exams can be taken remotely through eCampus, but an internet connection is required.****

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

I. Introduction

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

Lecture exam 1

- D. Habitat introductions

II. Biogeochemistry

- A. Nutrient cycles
- B. Climate change

Lecture exam 2

- C. Nutrients in coastal environments

III. Ecology

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

Lecture exam 3

VI. Applied ecology

- A. Ecosystem services
- B. Invasive species
- C. Other impacts
- D. Policy & management
- E. Restoration

Lecture exam 4