

## **Biology 4301 Conservation Biology**

Spring 2019

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

**TTH 1:30- 2:45, Warrior Hall**

### **INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor: Angela Parsons**

**Office: 419 Warrior Hall**

**Phone: 512-695-1612**

**Email: [aparsons@tamuct.edu](mailto:aparsons@tamuct.edu)**

### **Office Hours:**

I am available by appointment or you can just stop by 419. Please call or email me so we can find a time that is mutually convenient.

### **Mode of instruction and course access:**

This course meets face-to-face, two times a week.

This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System  
[<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

### **Student-instructor interaction:**

I check emails twice a day, so if you have an urgent matter, the best way to contact me is to text me, and be sure to identify yourself when you do.

### **911 Cellular:**

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account.

In an effort to enhance personal safety on the Texas A&M University – Central Texas (TAMUCT) campus, the TAMUCT Police Department has introduced Warrior Shield by 911

Cellular. [Warrior Shield](https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html] can be downloaded and installed on your mobile device from Google Play or Apple Store.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### **Course Overview and description:**

Conservation biology synthesizes information from a wide variety of scientific fields so that it may be applied in a more practical way to the effective management of natural resources. Major topics include biodiversity, extinction, habitat destruction, invasive species, population biology,

conservation strategies, establishing protected areas, and restoring degraded ecosystems.

**Course Objective:**

Conservation biology tries to identify worldwide problems and find solutions that can be applied to actual threats to biodiversity and all life on earth.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- a. Understand ecological and evolutionary principles that underlie biological diversity
- b. Demonstrate how ecological and evolutionary principles are applied to solving conservation problems
- c. Apply critical reasoning skills to assessment, analysis, and synthesis of conservation problems and solutions
- d. Explain proximate and ultimate threats to biodiversity and consequences of biodiversity loss

**Required Reading and Textbook(s):**

Primack, Richard B. 2014. Essentials of Conservation Biology. Sinauer Associates, Inc., Sunderland, MA. ISBN:987-1-60535-289-3

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Four exams, 100 points each	60%
HW chapter notes, 100 points each	15%
Student presentation/ final exam	20%
Participation	5%

**Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion**

**Grading scheme**

**A 4.00 (90 +)** Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.

**B 3.00 (80-89%)** Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.

**C 2.00 (70-79%)** Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.

**D 1.00 (60-69%)** Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully course requirements.

**F 0.00 (<60%)** Represents failure and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an "I" (incomplete).

**I (Incomplete)** The "I" shall be assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances, the student was prevented from completing the work of the course on time. The assignment of an "I" requires a written agreement between the instructor and student specifying the time and manner in which the student will complete the course requirements. In no event may any such written agreement allow a period of longer than one year to complete the course requirements. For graduate and professional students, an "I" is to remain on the transcript until changed by the instructor or department. For all other students, work to make up an I must be

submitted within one year of the last day of final examinations of the term in which the “I” was given; if not submitted by that time, then the “I” will automatically change to an F. ***To obtain an incomplete you must have been doing passing work in the course***

### **Posting of Grades**

I will grade your exams and assignments as quickly as possible and put them on Canvas.

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR**

### **Complete Course Calendar**

<b>Tues 1/15</b>	<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>What is Conservation Biology?</b>
<b>Thur.1/17</b>	<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>What is Biodiversity?</b>
<b>Tues.1/22</b>	<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>Where is Biodiversity Found?</b>
<b>Thur.1/24</b>	<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>Ecological Economics</b>
<b>Tues.1/29</b>	<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Indirect Use Value</b>
<b>Thur.1/31</b>	<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Ethical Values</b>
<b>Tues.2/5</b>	<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Finish all notes and review for test</b>
<b>Thur. 2/7</b>	<b><u>EXAM 1</u></b>	<b><u>Chapters 1-6</u></b>
<b>Tues.2/12</b>	<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>Extinction</b>
<b>Thur.2/14</b>	<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>Vulnerability to Extinction</b>
<b>Tues.2/19</b>	<b>Chapter 9</b>	<b>Habitat Destruction, Fragmentation, Degradation, Climate Change</b>
<b>Thur.2/21</b>	<b>Chapter 10</b>	<b>Overexploitation, Invasive Species, Disease</b>
<b>Tues.2/26</b>	<b>Chapter 11</b>	<b>Problems of Small Populations</b>
<b>Thur.2/28</b>	<b>Chapter 12</b>	<b>Applied Population Biology</b>
<b>Tues.3/5</b>	<b>Finish up all notes from chapters 7-12. <u>Turn in topic for final presentation</u></b>	
<b>Thur.3/7</b>	<b><u>EXAM 2</u></b>	<b><u>Chapters 7-12</u></b>
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
<b>Tues.3/19</b>	<b>Chapter 13</b>	<b>Establishing New Populations</b>
<b>Thur. 3/21</b>	<b>Chapter 14</b>	<b>Ex Situ Conservation Strategies</b>
<b>Tues.3/26</b>	<b>Chapter 15</b>	<b>Establishing Protected Areas</b>
<b>Thur.3/28</b>	<b>Chapter 16</b>	<b>Designing Networks of Protected Areas</b>
<b>Tues.4/2</b>	<b>Chapter 17</b>	<b>Managing Protected Areas</b>
<b>Thur.4/4</b>	<b><u>EXAM 3</u></b>	<b><u>Chapters 13-17</u></b>
<b>Tues.4/9</b>	<b>Chapter 18</b>	<b>Conservation Outside Protected Areas</b>
<b>Thur.4/11</b>	<b>Chapter 19</b>	<b>Restoration Ecology</b>
<b>Tues.4/16</b>	<b>Chapter 20</b>	<b>Conservation and Sustainable Development at Local, National Levels</b>
<b>Thur.4/18</b>	<b>Chapter 21</b>	<b>International Approach to Conservation, Sustainable Development</b>
<b>Tues.4/23</b>	<b>Chapter 22</b>	<b>An Agenda for the Future</b>
<b>Thur.4/25</b>	<b><u>EXAM 4</u></b>	<b><u>Chapters 18-22</u></b>
<b>Tues.4/30</b>	<b>Final Presentations</b>	
<b>Thur.5/2</b>	<b>Final Presentations</b>	
<b>Tues.5/7</b>	<b>Final Presentations</b>	

### Important University Dates:

January 14, 2019	Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for 16- and First 8-Week. \$25 fee assessed for late registrants.
January 14, 2019	Classes Begin for Spring Semester
January 16, 2019	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for 16- and First 8-Week Classes
January 21, 2019	Martin L. King Jr. Day ( <i>University Closed</i> )
January 22, 2019	Deadline to Drop First 8-Week Classes with No Record
January 30, 2019	Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with No Record
February 22, 2019	Student End of Course Survey Opens (First 8-Week Classes)
February 22, 2019	Deadline to Drop First 8-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
March 1, 2019	Deadline for Graduation Application for Spring Ceremony Participation
March 1, 2019	Deadline for Teacher Education and Professional Certification Applications (i.e. Principal, Reading Specialist, etc.)
March 8, 2019	Classes End for First 8-Week Session
March 8, 2019	Deadline for Spring Admissions Applications
March 10, 2019	Student End of Course Survey Closes (First 8-Week Classes)
March 11, 2019	Spring Break – No Class ( <i>University Open</i> )
March 11, 2019	Deadline for Faculty Submission of First 8-Week Final Class Grades (due by 3pm)
March 13, 2019	Spring Break – No Class ( <i>University Open</i> )

March 14, 2019	Spring Break – No Class ( <i>University Open</i> )
March 15, 2019	Deadline for Tuition and Fee Payments (Second 8-Week Classes)
March 15, 2019	Deadline for Clinical Teaching Applications
March 15, 2019	Spring Break – No Class ( <i>University Open</i> )
March 18, 2019	Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for Second 8-Week Classes. \$25 fee assessed for late registrants.
March 18, 2019	Classes Begin for Second 8-Week Session
March 20, 2019	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for Second 8-Week Classes
March 25, 2019	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with No Record
April 1, 2019	Deadline for GRE/GMAT Scores to Office of Graduate Studies
April 5, 2019	Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
April 12, 2019	Deadline for Final Committee-Edited Theses with Committee Approval Signatures to Office of Graduate Studies for Spring Semester
April 26, 2019	Student End of Course Survey Opens (16- and Second 8-Week Classes)
April 26, 2019	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
May 10, 2019	Deadline for Applications for \$1,000 Tuition Rebate for Spring Graduation (5pm)
May 10, 2019	Deadline for Degree Conferral Applications to the Registrar's Office. \$20 Late Application Fee.
May 10, 2019	Deadline to Withdraw from the University for 16- and Second 8-Week Classes
May 10, 2019	Spring Semester Ends
May 11, 2019	Commencement Ceremony Bell County Expo Center 7:00 p.m.
May 12, 2019	Student End of Course Survey Closes (16- and Second 8-Week Classes)
May 14, 2019	Deadline for Faculty Submission of 16-Week and Second 8-Week Final Class Grades (due by 3pm)
May 14, 2019	Deadline for Thesis to Clear Thesis Office for Spring Semester

**The following *Science policies* are in effect starting 1/1/19**

- a. Lecture courses
  - i. Exams
    1. There will be no bathroom breaks allowed during any exam. Be sure that you address this issue before beginning an exam.
    2. Any student needing to take an exam at a **different time** as rest of students due to sickness or other accommodations will receive a **different version of exam**. This includes sickness, special accommodations, etc....
    3. All students needing special accommodations must submit an accommodation form from the Office of Access and Inclusion listing the specific accommodations needed. Students are responsible for scheduling their own exam times with the TAMUCT Testing Center.
    4. Any student missing an exam in class for any other reason (i.e. illness, death in family, etc....) must provide documentation for missing the exam (e.g. doctor's note, obituary notice, etc....). Exams must be made up within one week of original scheduled date, no exceptions.

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT**

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

**Canvas Support**

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

**Other Technology Support**

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

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**UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES**

**Drop Policy.**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](#)

[[https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop\\_Request\\_Form.pdf](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf)].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

### **Academic Integrity.**

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](#),

[<https://tamuct.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/tamuct-student-conduct-panel>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](#),

[[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\\_id=0](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0)].

### **Academic Accommodations.**

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion at (254) 519-5797. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](#) web page

[<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html>].

**Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students.**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit the [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

**Tutoring.**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at [deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu](mailto:deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu).

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

**The University Writing Center.**

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University—Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.



While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WCOOnline](#). In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

### **University Library.**

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [<http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>].

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### **OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS:**

#### **A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if

someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

### **INSTRUCTOR POLICIES.**

**Grading Policy and Point Breakdown.** Grades in this course will be criteria-based on a number of activities including exams, note sheets, and a final presentation. This means that grades will not be curved and anyone achieving a 90% or above will receive an A in this course. I will be taking attendance every day and using that number, as well as your discussion in class to determine your participation grade.

**Grade Dispute Policy.** Grading disputes must be put in writing (with justification such as supporting statements from the text or another credible source) and given to me no earlier than 24 hours after the assignment has been returned. I will consider your request carefully, but reserve the right to adjust your grade up or down.

**Assignments.** These will consist of the chapter note sheets to be filled in that cause the students to reflect upon and apply the concepts outlined in the chapter. All assignments are to be turned in at the start of class on the day the chapter will be discussed, and handed directly to the instructor. I will not accept e-mailed assignments of any kind.

**Late Assignments.** I expect all assignments to be turned in on time. Late assignments interfere with my ability to provide timely, detailed feedback, as well as with your ability to learn and process new material. Accordingly, any unauthorized late assignment will receive a 10% reduction in grade for each day it is late. No assignments will be accepted after it has been graded and returned, or after the exam has been given over the material.

**Exams.** The exams will be primarily short and long answer, designed to provoke reflection, critical thought, and application of knowledge. You will receive a list of several sample or real exam questions ahead of time. You are encouraged to prepare for the exam by reviewing reading materials, outlining a draft of a response, and discussing these thoughts with your peers. You will then demonstrate your individual, integrated thoughts on the topic in a closed-book exam during the class period.

**Missed exams.** If you know you will miss an exam, please contact me BEFORE the exam. I will gladly give make-up exams if the student has an unavoidable reason for missing the exam (i.e. death in the family, severe illness). Keep in mind that **I will expect documentation of your reason** for missing the exam (e.g. doctor's note, obituary notice). Exams must be made up within a week of the original scheduled date, no exceptions regardless of excuse.

**What I expect of you.** To get the most out of this class, you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner, which includes contributing to class discussions, being punctual, and notifying me of absences in advance. **I do not want to see any cell phones out and in use at any time.**

**Class Attendance.** I expect that you attend each class session and arrive on time. If an unavoidable situation arises that prevents you from attending class, I expect that you also promptly contact me to discuss the missed material and get the notes from a classmate. I will not distribute my notes to students as they are often abbreviated and do not contain the detail needed to sufficiently understand the material. The power points are from the text, and I will rely heavily on the note sheets you complete as they provide a good summary of the important points you need to know.

**What you can expect of me.** You can expect me to start and end class on time, be available through office hours, e-mail, and by appointment, be responsive to student suggestions for course improvement, answer questions to the fullest extent possible and/or direct you to appropriate resources, return graded assignments and exams within a reasonable time frame, and treat you with respect as future colleagues.

**Discussion.** The topics in this class encompass a diversity of issues that merit in-depth thought and discussion. Since individuals will be expressing their opinions, I expect that you will respect others' contributions, as you would want them to do for you. Your participation, your engagement in the class and your contributions to the discussion and review of the topic for that class period will all enable you to get the most out of the course.

**Credits and Workload expectations.** For undergraduate courses, one credit is defined as equivalent to an average of two hours of learning effort per week (over a full semester) necessary for an average student to receive an average grade for the course. A student taking a four-credit class that meets for four hours a week should expect to spend an additional eight hours a week outside the classroom in order to earn an average grade.

**Class Structure.** Classes will involve a balance of active lecture and engaging learning activities. I believe that students learn the theories and concepts much better when they have an active role. I know that this may be new to some of you, but please keep an open mind and I know that you will get more out of this class because of it.