

Entomology 822 (3 credits)
Cultural Entomology
Fall semester (asynchronous online)

INSTRUCTOR:

Erin Bauer, Entomology Lecturer

Email: ebauer2@unl.edu

Work phone: 402-786-8180

Mailing Address: Department of Entomology Room 103, Entomology Hall University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583-0816

Office Hours: The best way to reach me is by email. Expect a response within 24 hours on weekdays or 48 hours on weekends (but often much sooner). If you call, leave a message and I will get back with you as soon as possible.

ABOUT THE COURSE

This course will introduce students to how insects and related arthropods have influenced human culture historically and in scientific discovery. Topics include the medical impact of insects on mankind, including widespread disease transmission, use in warfare, and therapeutic medicine. The course will also explore how insects are represented by indigenous peoples and in Western popular culture through artifacts like visual art, literature, and music. Human perception regarding insects is also examined through the many benefits that arthropods provide, including use as food and feed and consumer product goods and services.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Identify how insects have inspired engineering and scientific discoveries.
2. Describe the historical importance and representation of insects in indigenous science, art, music, and religion.
3. Identify and analyze the medical impacts of insects on humans through disease, biological warfare, and therapy.
4. Analyze how insects and entomologists are both positively and negatively portrayed (e.g., books, films, and other media)
5. Examine how insects are used in the production of agricultural goods (honey, silk, dyes, etc.) prepared for local or mass distribution.
6. Assess the potential for insects in improving global food security.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD

Canvas will be used for delivery of all materials pertinent to this course (lectures, asynchronous discussions, videos, readings, and assignments). Power Point presentations will be used to deliver lectures, which will include text and images and will be strengthened by narration to emphasize key points. In addition, readings and videos will be assigned. Each student is expected to complete all reading assignments and view all supplementary videos for each module.

Because this is an asynchronous class, my role as instructor will be to answer any questions you have about the course or the assignments and begin discussions. Within the discussion board, I may add comments, but primarily would like you and your classmates to guide the discussion with your own thoughts and ideas. I check email frequently and usually get back to students within 24 hours on

weekdays or 48 hours if over a weekend.

TEXTBOOKS

We will be using the online resource “*Insectography: Insects in the World of Fiction*” at <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/entomologydiss/24/>

You will be required to watch two of the following movies: [Antz](#), [Bug's Life](#), and [Bee Movie](#). Available for purchase on Amazon (follow links) or for rent on Amazon Prime, Netflix, or Youtube.

Entomophagy:

FAO Report on Edible Insects: <http://www.fao.org/3/i3253e/i3253e00.htm>

Library of Congress Research Guide: <https://guides.loc.gov/entomophagy/internet-resources>

There will also be many required additional readings/resources posted on Canvas throughout the semester relating to the topics covered in this course.

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

Discussion Board Assignments: There will be a few discussion board assignments throughout the semester, which will enable you to get to know your classmates and require you to reflect on topics discussed in the course and respond to others in the class.

Medical Impact Essay: Students will choose an area (where insects have historically been, or currently still are, of medical importance to humans (e.g., disease impact; maggot or venom therapy) and explore this topic more fully in an essay. Specific instructions will be provided on Canvas.

Reviews/Evaluations: Students will review or evaluate various popular culture resources. Assignments will include developing a book discussion guide and reviewing a film.

Entomophagy/Insects in Agriculture Journal Article Critique: Students will choose and critique scholarly journal articles about entomophagy and/or how insects are used in the production of goods. More detailed instructions will be available on Canvas.

Insects in Biological Warfare Essay: Students will choose an area (where insects have historically been used (or have been considered for use) in biological warfare (toxins, pathogens, etc.) and explore this topic more fully in an essay. Specific instructions will be provided on Canvas.

Final Project: Students will create a product (print, video, art project, website, etc.) around an insect of interest related to a human cultural element. For example, caddisfly jewelry, a piece of art, a deep dive or photojournalistic report, an entomophagy cookbook, etc.

Exams: There will be two exams in this course, a midterm and a final. Both will be closed book, with questions being multiple choice, matching, true/false, or fill in the blank. The midterm will cover the first half of the course, and the final will be comprehensive, but with a focus on the topics from the second half of the course.

Point Breakdown

Assessment	Quantity	Points Per	Total Points
Discussion Board	3	10	30
Medical impact essay	1	50	50
Book discussion guide	1	50	50
Biological warfare essay	1	50	50
Film review	1	50	50
Journal article critique	2	50	100
Final Project	1	100	100
Exams	2	50	100
Total			530 points

Letter grades will be assigned based on straight percentages of 100 - 90% A range, 89 - 80% B ranges, etc. The department of entomology and the Office of Graduate Studies requires that graduate students receive a **B or better grade** in order for the class to count towards graduation.

SCALE

100 – 98 A+	89 - 87 B+	79 - 77 C+	69 – 67 D+	59 – 0 F
97 – 94 A	86 - 83 B	76 – 73 C	66 – 63 D	
93 – 90 A-	82 - 80 B-	72 – 70 C-	62 – 60 D-	

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Assignments due
1	Introduction to Cultural Entomology	
2	Insect Fear, Disgust, Misconception and Human Perception	Discussion Board 1 due
3	Historical Perspectives on Insects Indigenous Science and Religion	
4	Entomophagy: Feeding a Hungry World	
5	Producing Goods: Insects in Agriculture and Consumer Good Production	Discussion Board 2 due
6	Insects in Pop Culture: Introduction Pop Culture: Literature, Film, Television and Video Games	
7	Insects in Fine Art Visual Art and Music	Journal critique 1 due
8	Midterm exam	Discussion Board 3 due
9	Insect Disease Transmission: Historical and Modern Examples	Film review due
10	Insects and Medicine: Maggots and Venom Therapy	Book guide due
11	Insect Toxins and Biological Warfare	
12	Insects and Innovation: Science Discovery	Medical essay due
13	Insects and Innovation: Engineering and	

	Technology	
14	Insects as Influencers: Advertising, Propaganda, and Sensationalism	
15	Dead week	Biological warfare essay due
16	Final Exam	Final Project due

Academic Dishonesty:

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has a clear, succinct, and reasonable policy about academic dishonesty, as indicated in the student code of conduct (<https://studentconduct.unl.edu/student-code-conduct>). As a student at UNL, you enjoy rights and protections under the code and are obligated to conduct yourself in compliance with the code. One area where students occasionally have some confusion regards plagiarism (which is especially important in this course, as most assignments and exams involve writing). The key concept here (and in other misconduct) is misrepresenting the work of another as one's own. The University has a good web site that reviews UNL's policy on academic integrity and academic dishonesty, which you should review (<https://studentconduct.unl.edu/academic-integrity>).

As the Student Code of Conduct indicates, academic sanctions for misconduct (subject to appeal) are at the discretion of the instructor, and may include giving the student a failing grade for the course. In this course, the least penalty we will impose for misconduct is a one letter grade reduction in the course grade, however, in most instances (particularly for graduate students) the penalty for cheating in this class will be a failing grade in the course.

If a student wishes to appeal a claim of academic dishonesty, the following process must be followed. First, the student must submit a written appeal to the instructor of the course and state their reason(s) for appealing. If this student appeal cannot be resolved with the course instructor, then the student must immediately submit their appeal statement within seven days to the Department's Curriculum Committee for their recommendation. If a satisfactory solution to this appeal is still not reached with the Department Curriculum Committee, the student's written appeal will then be forwarded to the Department Head. If a satisfactory solution is still not achieved at the Department Head level, the student may then submit their written appeal statement to the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) Dean's Office. The appeal process for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources will then be followed as outlined by the College.

Additional Information:

PLEDGE OF INSTRUCTIONAL STANDARDS

Entomology instructors will provide our students a complete syllabus meeting all UNL standards, our classes will be based on current science and will follow published schedules and descriptions, and our instructors will be timely in returning grades and in responding to our students.

ADA STATEMENT

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options privately. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). If you are eligible for services and register with their office, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so they can be implemented in a timely manner. SSD contact information: 117 Louise Pound Hall; 402-472-3787

CHEATING

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has a policy about academic dishonesty, as indicated in the Student Code of Conduct (see Undergraduate Bulletin). As a student at UNL, you enjoy rights and protections under the code and are obligated to conduct yourself in compliance with the code.

As the Student Code of Conduct indicates, academic sanctions for misconduct subject to appeal are at the discretion of the instructor, and may include giving the student a failing grade for the course. In this course, the least penalty that will be imposed for misconduct is a one letter grade reduction in the course grade, but in most instances the penalty for cheating will be a failing grade in the course.

“Students are expected to adhere to guidelines concerning academic dishonesty as specified in Entomology policy (insert web link) in accordance with Section 4.2 of the University Student Code of Conduct (<http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/>).”

MENTAL AND WELL-BEING RESOURCES

UNL offers a variety of options to students to aid them in dealing with stress and adversity. Counseling and Psychological & Services (CAPS) is a multidisciplinary team of psychologists and counselors that works collaboratively with Nebraska students to help them explore their feelings and thoughts and learn helpful ways to improve their mental, psychological and emotional well-being when issues arise. CAPS can be reached by calling 402-472-7450. Big Red Resilience & Well-Being provides one-on-one well-being coaching to any student who wants to enhance their well-being. Trained well-being coaches help students create and be grateful for positive experiences, practice resilience and self-compassion, and find support as they need it. BRRWB can be reached by calling 402-472-8770.