

SYLLABUS FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY
ENTO 896---Department of Entomology
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources/IANR
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

I. Course Objectives

After completing the course, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a command of entomological knowledge and scientific principles
2. Demonstrate an ability to apply graduate coursework in an area of specific professional or personal interest to you.

II. Course Instructors

Erin Bauer (Independent Study Project Coordinator) - ebauer2@unl.edu
Phone: 402-786-8180

III. About this Course

The independent study course requires departmental approval to enroll. Students in this course may conduct individual or group projects focused on research, literature review, or extension/enhancement of other coursework. All work is conducted under supervision and evaluation of a departmental faculty member, which in most cases is the student's advisor. A second option is working as a teaching assistant for an online M.S. course or developing an outreach project. Independent study contracts for ENTO 896 must be filed with and approved by the course coordinator, Erin Bauer - ebauer2@unl.edu. Students are limited to a total of 4 independent study credits during their program.

OPTION 1. Research, Literature Review, or Enhancement of other Work

The specific subject chosen may stem from a student's own experience and interests. A scholarly product is expected, which might be a term paper culminating from an extensive literature review, a series of readings accompanied by short papers or some other appropriate and approved activity. In some cases, independent study can be used to enhance work done on the student's ENTO 888 M.S. Project. All projects are to be completed by the student working independently with occasional guidance, as needed, from their faculty advisor. Students considering a course of independent study should identify for themselves their area of interest and contact the course coordinator, who, depending on the topic proposed, will either agree to be the faculty advisor for the project, or solicit another faculty member to supervise the project. Projects must be turned in two weeks before finals week for a grade to be assigned for the enrolled semester. Unfinished projects will be assigned an incomplete until it is finished.

Steps:

1. Identify a topic or activity you wish to pursue for your independent study.
2. Write a brief descriptive of what you wish to do and submit to the course coordinator (ebauer2@unl.edu) for approval. Include the following:
 - Date submitted
 - Name and student ID #
 - Semester/year enrolling in independent study
 - Full title of project
 - Purpose and objectives of project
 - Procedures for completing project
 - Proposed outcomes
 - Proposed Timeline
3. Changes to the approved project must be discussed, in writing, with the student's independent study advisor.

OPTION 2. Teaching Assistant

The teaching assistant option allows students to experience online classes from the teaching side, or help develop outreach curriculum and/or conduct outreach programs. Students can choose to do an independent study in either Online Courses or Outreach Education. Specifics are outlined below.

Assist with Online Courses: This includes, but is not limited to, grading papers; assisting the instructor; and discussion room, social media, or other assignment coordination. This is a good choice if you are interested in a particular topic and would like to learn more, or experience the teaching side of online education. For M.S. classes, it is required that you have already taken and passed the class in which you wish to be a TA. Examples of classes might include Insect Biology (undergrad course...online section), Insect Ecology, Insect Behavior, etc. Contact the Independent Study course instructor (Erin Bauer at ebauer2@unl.edu) with the class you are interested in and she can make arrangements. At the end of your TA semester, you'll provide Erin with a short assignment about your experiences as a TA.

Outreach Education: Develop new educational materials for use in our outreach program (online or on-site kits). You will work with Erin Bauer to complete projects. Specific opportunities or projects may be available depending on the semester. In addition, if you are local in Nebraska, you may have the opportunity to conduct outreach programs in the community.

IV. Grading

Grading for this course will be based upon the quality of the final project (e.g., paper or outreach curriculum) or TAing (completing grading in timely matter, etc.) 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+
97 – 94 A	86 - 83 B
93 – 90 A-	82 - 80 B-

Academic Dishonesty:

All students and faculty should be familiar with the UNL Policy regarding Academic Dishonesty that may be found in the Student Code of Conduct (<http://stuafs.unl.edu/dos/code>).

When a student is notified by an instructor of an alleged act of Academic Dishonesty, they should discuss the matter with the instructor to determine if redress is possible. If the instructor decides to move forward with the allegation of Academic Dishonesty and the result is a lower grade, the instructor shall make a report in writing of the facts of the case and the academic sanction imposed against the student to the instructor's Academic Unit Chair, Head or Director and to the UNL Judicial Officer. Both the instructor and academic unit should maintain copies of the relevant documents on file for at least two years.

If the student feels that the allegations of the instructor regarding Academic Dishonesty, or the proposed penalty to be imposed, are unjust or not warranted, the student should contact their academic advisor and the Unit/Program Chair/Head/Director to discuss the matter. This process must be initiated within one month of the class grade assignment. The Unit/Program should then initiate a review of the matter consistent with its written policy. If the Unit/Program agrees with the Instructor that the evidence indicates that the student has violated the Academic Dishonesty policy, they should forward the documentation and paperwork to the CASNR Associate Dean for Student Affairs for review by the College. If the Unit/Program determines that there is not

sufficient evidence of Academic Dishonesty to warrant action against the student, the paperwork should be forwarded to the CASNR Dean with the student's name deleted so that there is a record of the incident, but no potential future bias toward the student.

Once received by the CASNR Associate Dean for Student Affairs, the file alleging student Academic Dishonesty should be considered by a Panel consisting of the CASNR Associate Deans. If the Panel decides that there is sufficient evidence to support the allegation of Academic Dishonesty made by the instructor, the student will be notified. If the student desires to appeal this decision, the file will be forwarded to the CASNR Dean for transfer to the UNL Judicial Officer.

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.