

COURSE SYLLABUS FOR INSECT ECOLOGY—Section 700—Fall 2017
 ENTO/BIOS 406/806---Department of Entomology
 College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources/IANR
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln

I. Course Objective

The overall course objective is to examine the role that insects play in the ecosystems they inhabit and to study how the ecosystems influence the insects that live in them.

II. Instructor

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III. Textbooks (available on Amazon.com and other online retailers):

Required:

Speight, M.R., Hunter, M.D., & Watt, A.D. (2008). *Ecology of Insects: Concepts and Applications*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Other recommended textbooks:

Schowalter, T.D. (2016). *Insect Ecology: An Ecosystem Approach*. Academic Press.

Price, P.W., Denno, R.F., Eubanks, M.D., Finke, D.L., and Kaplan, I. (2012). *Insect Ecology: Behavior, Populations, and Communities*. Cambridge University Press.

IV. Class Schedule

Week	Topic	Assignments Due
1 (Aug 21-25)	Introduction/Overview (1) Library Module:	
2 (Aug 28-Sept 1)	Insects and Climate (2)	Assign 1 Aug 28
3 (Sept 4-8)	Insect Herbivores (3)	
4 (Sept 11-15)	Resource Limitation (4)	Assign 2 Sept 11
5 (Sept 18-22)	Natural Enemies (5) Exam 1	Assign 3 Sept 18
6 (Sept 25-29)	Population Dynamics (5)	Assign 3 Sept 25
7 (Oct 2-6)	Evolutionary Ecology (6)	Assign 5 Oct 2
8 (Oct 9-13)	Insects in Ecosystems (8)	Assign 6 Oct 9
9 (Oct 16-20)	Fall break, no lecture	Assign 7 Oct 16
10 (Oct 23-27)	Biodiversity (9)	1 st film essay Oct 23
11 (Oct 30-Nov 3)	Insect Conservation (10) Exam 2	Assign 8 Oct 30

12 (Nov 6-10)	Insects and Diseases (11)	Assign 9 Nov 6
13 (Nov 13-17)	Insect Pest Management (12)	Assign 10 Nov 13
14 (Nov 20-24)	Thanksgiving, no lecture	2 nd film essay Nov 20 (<i>grad students only</i>)
15 (Nov 27-Dec 1)	Insect Pest Management (12)	
16 (Dec 4-8)	Dead week, no lecture	Assign 11 Dec 4
17 (Dec 11-15)	Final exam	

Please note that the number in parentheses in the above table is the chapter in the textbook that is the assigned reading for the indicated week of lectures and discussions.

Chapter assignments are due the Monday after the week of lectures on that chapter.

V. Instructional Method

The course is designed with narrated Powerpoint lectures on Canvas and the intent is that one, two, or three will be over each week's topic. In fact, there is no reason why you can't go faster than one topic per week if you desire. These lectures and presentations will be supported by readings from the text, selected references, and, in the case of grad students, additional research articles.

VI. Student Assignments

Library Modules: Throughout the semester, you will be viewing short library modules that review research strategies that can assist you with assignments both in this course and in your overall program. Topic areas include the following: Avoiding Plagiarism, Search Engine Strategies, Library Resources, Using Images, Evaluating Resources, and Referencing and Citation Styles. For example, there will be a module about how to do APA style, which is what you will be using for assignments in this class. These modules will each end with a short assessment worth 5 points to ensure completion.

Exams: The exams will be provided to you on Canvas during the week on the schedule. You will be given a predetermined amount of time to complete the exams once you start one, so be prepared to do nothing else and to not be interrupted when you plan to take an exam. All exams will consist of short answer questions primarily, however, it may be that a few short essay questions will also be provided. Exam 1 will be focused on subject matter covered through week 5 and chapter 5 in the textbook. Exam 2 will be focused on subject matter covered through week 10 and chapter 10 in the textbook. The final exam will be comprehensive over the entire semester's information, but will have more questions that cover the latter third of the course.

Homework Assignments (Undergraduates only): You will be required to write a short 1-3 page assignment on a topic from each chapter (11 total). These will help you discuss what you have watched in the lectures and read in the textbook, as well as provide a

review of important topics for the exams. Please see separate handout for more details about the assignment, how to submit, and due dates.

Research Paper Critique (Graduates only): For each chapter of our textbook (11 total), you will be reading a topically related scholarly research paper/article and writing a 2-3 page summary and critique for that article. Please see separate handout for more details about the assignment, how to submit, and due dates.

Class Essays: There will be class essay topics (see separate handout for details including how to submit and due dates), and these will each focus on a short film about insect ecology that may not have been covered as thoroughly as some other topics in the text or lectures. Additional reading and thought is likely necessary on the students' part to be successful on these assignments.

Graduate students are required to complete *two* essays of their choice. *Undergraduate students* are required to write *one* essay of their choice.

For assistance in obtaining reference materials from the library here at the University of Nebraska, contact the Entomology Librarian, who is Leslie Delserone, C.Y. Thompson Library, East Campus, UNL, Lincoln, NE 68583- 0717 (402) 472-6297 Email: ldelserone2@unl.edu A library online course guide can be found at: http://unl.libguides.com/insect_ecology

Discussion Board on Canvas: A discussion board will be available for students' use. Other than the initial graduate research paper assignment, there won't be any formal discussion board assignments. However, you may wish to use it to share with your classmates interesting insect ecology topics you've found or to pose questions.

Discussion Etiquette:

- Please participate in online discussions as you would in constructive face-to-face discussions.
- Please be professional and courteous.
- Online communication lacks the non-verbal cues that provide much of the meaning in face-to-face conversations. Choose your words carefully, phrase your sentences clearly, and keep your sentences and paragraphs brief.
- State your purpose for writing at or near the beginning of your message whenever possible.

Please proofread what you post!!

VII. 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](#)

(www.unl.edu/sja/Student-Record-Policy.pdf). 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 Foundations program has a good web site that reviews UNL's policy on academic integrity and academic dishonesty, which you should review (<http://www.unl.edu/UFP/acadinte.htm>).

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.

VIII. Textbook

Speight, M., & Hunter, M. (2008). *Ecology of insects: Concepts and Applications* (2nd ed.). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

IX. Examinations:

The exams will be provided to you on Canvas during the week on the schedule. You will be given a predetermined amount of time to complete the exams once you start one, so be prepared to do nothing else and to not be interrupted when you plan to take an exam. All exams will consist of short answer questions primarily, however, it may be that a few short essay questions will also be provided. Exam 1 will be focused on subject matter covered through week 5 and chapter 5 in the textbook. Exam 2 will be focused on subject matter covered through week 10 and chapter 10 in the textbook. The final exam will be comprehensive over the entire semester's information, but will have more questions that cover the latter third of the course.

X. Grading

Undergraduate Students:

Library Modules		
Class Essay	30 points	30
Exam 1		100
Exam 2		100
Final exam		100
<u>Homework assignments</u>	<u>15 points each</u>	<u>165</u>
Total		495 points

Graduate Students:

Library Modules		
Class Essays	30 points each (2 x 30 =60)	60
Exam 1		100
Exam 2		100
Final exam		100
<u>Research article critiques</u>	<u>15 points each</u>	<u>165</u>
Total		525 points

<u>Percent of Total Points Earned</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
97%	A+
93%	A
90%	A-
87%	B+
83%	B
80%	B-
77%	C+
73%	C
70%	C-
67%	D+
63%	D
60%	D-
below 60%	F