

COURSE SYLLABUS FOR INSECT ECOLOGY

Distance Section

Entomology 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. Teaching Assistant

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IV. Class Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Introduction (1)
2	Insects and Climate (2)
3	Insect Herbivores (3)
4	Resource Limitation (4)
5	Natural Enemies (5) Exam 1
6	Population Dynamics (5)
7	Evolutionary Ecology (6)
8	Insects in Ecosystems (8)
9	Biodiversity (9)
10	Spring Break
11	Insect Conservation (10) Exam 2
12	Insects and Diseases (11)
13	Insect Pest Management (12)
14	Insect Pest Management (12)
15	“The Queen of Trees” and Term paper presentations
16	Term paper presentations
17	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.

V. Instructional Method

The course is designed with narrated Powerpoint lectures on Blackboard 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 and perhaps some selected references.

VI. Student Assignments

Exams: The exams will be provided to you on Blackboard 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 11 and chapter 10 in the textbook. The final exam will be comprehensive over the entire semester's course information.

Class Assignments: There will be five class assignments provided in a separate handout and these will each focus on an important aspect of 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.

Term Papers: The term papers are to be 8 to 10 pages in length, typed, and double-spaced. They should be well written about an ecological subject that the student has submitted to the instructor for approval by the time of Exam 1. Ten or more references should be used in the writing of this paper which should be cited in the text and listed at the end as references cited. Students may submit a draft of the term paper to Dr. Stebbing, so that suggestions for improvement of the paper can be provided prior to completion of the final draft. Students will each present a summary of their term paper in the form of a Powerpoint presentation as an attachment to an email to Dr. Stebbing. She will then make these available on the course Blackboard site for all students to view. For assistance in obtaining reference materials from the library here at the University of Nebraska, contact the Entomology Librarian who is Gail Latta at 210 CY Thompson Library, UNL, Lincoln, NE 68583-0717 Telephone (402) 472-3985; FAX (402) 472-7005; Email glatta1@unl.edu

Discussion: Students are expected to offer comments, questions, and replies to the discussion question that will be posed for each week as well as to classmate postings. Students are expected to actively participate in EACH week's discussion throughout the semester. Dr. Stebbing's role is as an observer and facilitator. She will be reading all messages and will participate in the discussion as appropriate.

Postings will be evaluated on the quality of the postings and the degree that the postings promote discussion with classmates. Participation on weekly boards is required and postings will be evaluated per board on the below scale (14 weekly discussions). Students can earn the 4 additional points by showing good effort to engage classmates in discussion. The discussion assignment will be worth a total of 60 points.

4 Points - The posting(s) integrates multiple viewpoints and weaves both class readings and other participants' postings into their discussion of the subject.

3 Points - The posting(s) builds upon the ideas of another participant or two, and digs deeper into the question(s) posed by the instructor.

2 Points - A single posting that does not interact with or incorporate the ideas of other participants' comments.

1 Point - A simple "me too" comment that neither expands the conversation nor demonstrates any degree of reflection by the student.

0 Points - No comment.

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.

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

Ecology of Insects -- Concepts and Applications (Second Edition) is the textbook for the course. It was written by Speight et. al and Wiley-Blackwell is the publisher. It is available at the University and Nebraska Bookstores, as well as over the internet at various vendors' sites.

IX. Examinations:

The exams will be provided to you on Blackboard 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 11 and chapter 10 in the textbook. The final exam will be comprehensive over the entire semester's course information..

X. Grading

Class Assignments	30 points each (5 x 30 =150)	150
Exam 1		100
Exam 2		100
Final exam		150
Term Paper		75
Term Paper Presentation		25
<u>Discussions</u>		<u>60</u>
Total		660 points

Percent of Total Points Earned Grading Scale

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