

Entomology 896 (1 credit) Insects in Popular Culture Sample Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR:

Erin Bauer, Entomology Lecturer

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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.

If you are on campus, come by my office in 305C Entomology Hall.

ABOUT THE COURSE

This course will introduce students to a wide variety of books, movies, video games, and other media that feature entomologists or insects as major characters or themes, and will explore how entomology is represented in popular culture. It will also examine how these resources can be used to introduce entomological topics into educational programs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Identify resources for finding books, films and other media about insects and entomologists.
2. Analyze and review books, films and other media featuring insects and entomologists.
3. Describe how popular culture (literature and media) resources featuring insects and entomologists can be used in educational programs to enhance student interest in entomology.
4. Evaluate resources and develop educational materials about entomology that focus on literature and media.

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

There are no required textbooks for this course. 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 read ONE of the following children's books: [Hi! Fly Guy](#) or [Ant Bully](#) for an assignment. They can be purchased inexpensively from Amazon (follow links).

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.

There will also be a number of other readings/resources posted on Blackboard throughout the semester.

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

Student assignments in this class will include reviews or evaluations of several popular media resources and a final project. There will be no quizzes or tests in this course.

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 help each other out.

Children's Book Assignment: You will read a children's book featuring insects and a sample lesson plan, then discuss how you might use this material in an educational program.

Reviews/Evaluations: Throughout the course, you will be reviewing or evaluating various popular culture resources. Assignments will include a short story analysis, book discussion guide development, film reviews, and a video game evaluation.

Group Project: In small groups, you will design your own activity around a work of popular culture that features insects/entomologists in major roles.

Point Breakdown

Assessment	Quantity	Points Per	Total Points
Discussion Board	2	20	20
Short Story Analysis	1	20	20
Children's Book Assign.	1	50	50
Film Review	1	50	50
Book Discussion Guide	1	50	50
Pest PI Evaluation	1	50	50
Group Project	1	100	100
Total			340 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+
97 – 94 A	86 - 83 B
93 – 90 A-	82 - 80 B-

Module 1: Introduction and Where to Find Resources

Discussion Board Assignment: Where to Find Resources

Module 2: Books and Short Stories

*Assignment: Analysis of **Metamorphosis**
Lesson Plan Assignment: Children's Book
Book Discussion Guide Assignment: Novel*

Module 3: Films

Film Analysis Assignment: Compare and Contrast Two Films

Module 3: TV Shows/Episodes and Comics

Discussion Board Assignment: TV Show Clips

Module 4: Video Games

Video Game Assignment: Evaluation of Pest Private Eye

Work on group projects

Group Project Assignment due

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

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Christy Horn for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY (updated 8/20/07)

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/>)."