

**COURSE SYLLABUS FOR M.S. Proposal, 1 credit**  
ENTO 887---Department of Entomology  
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources/IANR  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Prerequisites: 20 graduate credit hours of coursework**

**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 (M.S. Project Coordinator) - [ebauer2@unl.edu](mailto:ebauer2@unl.edu), Office: 305C Ento Hall; 402-786-8180

Dr. Tom Weissling - [tweissling2@unl.edu](mailto:tweissling2@unl.edu), Office: 214 ENTO Hall; 402-937-1592

Dr. Leslie Rault – [lrault2@unl.edu](mailto:lrault2@unl.edu), Office: 312F Ento Hall; 402-783-1322

**III. Office Hours:** By appointment. Because this is an online course, the easiest way to get ahold of the instructors is through email or phone. If you would like to request a Zoom meeting, we can set that up with you.

**IV. Required materials:** Internet connection and browser; no textbooks required.

**V. About this Course**

This course serves as a capstone experience for students in the Online M.S. Degree in Entomology program. The intent of the course is to provide students an opportunity to apply knowledge and skills developed through their M.S. program in an area of particular applicability to their professional and personal interests. In developing the Online M.S. Degree in Entomology program, the faculty determined that the degree project is a valuable and essential component of the graduate education experience.

**VI. Course Activities**

This course represents an independent project conducted by senior graduate students in the Online M.S. Degree in Entomology. By the end of the semester you will have submitted your proposal, revised it, and had it approved in preparation for completing the M.S. Project. Essentially, three steps are required:

1. View lectures about M.S. Project process and requirements; take quizzes over material.
2. Develop Topic; instructors review and approve.
3. Write project proposal; instructors review and approve.
4. Students will receive a "Pass" for this course once the proposal is approved.

Examples for possible directions for the Online M.S. Degree can be found in the [Examples of Focus Areas](#) section of the Entomology Department website. Instructors will work with students to provide direction and specify project expectations. Specific requirements and steps may be found on the [general M.S. Project webpage](#).

Once students have determined a direction for their project, the topic idea should be sent to the M.S. Project Coordinator, [Erin Bauer](#), for approval ***within two weeks of the semester you are registered for the course.***

## VII. Course Outline and Steps

Week	Tasks and Assignments Due
Week 1	
Week 2	
Week 3	Topic Idea due
Week 4	
Week 5	
Week 6	Topic Proposal due
Week 7	
Week 8	
Week 9	
Week 10	Proposal returned to student with suggestions
Week 11	Work on revisions
Week 12	Work on revisions
Week 13	Work on revisions
Week 14	
Week 15	Final revisions due
Week 16	Dead week, any additional revisions due
Week 17	Finals week, nothing due

## VIII. Grading

Course grading is Pass/No Pass. Instructors will mentor students in the development of the proposal, in project implementation, and completion of projects. A passing grade will be awarded students who create an original work that demonstrates a scholarly understanding of entomology and reflects the personal or professional interests of the student. These projects can take many forms, such as scholarly reviews, teaching or training materials, multimedia, surveys, and other items that represent a substantial intellectual contribution to the field of entomology but must be submitted in a final portfolio format that contains a written summary and all relevant products. Final projects will be reviewed and approved by the instructors. A No Pass will automatically be assigned if the portfolio and other requirements are not completed in the time frame given.

**IX. Instructional Continuity Plan:** Because this is an asynchronous online course, UNL closures due to inclement weather will not affect instructional continuity. However, should inclement weather knocks out the internet and/or electrical power for a student for multiple days, please let the instructor know as soon as possible.

**X. Attendance Policy:** Because this course is online and asynchronous, students are not expected to physically attend class. Assignment due dates are as specified regardless of professional travel or inclement weather. In the case of emergency or illness that affects a student's ability to turn in assignments on time, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible who will make decisions regarding the ability to turn in assignments late on a case-by-case basis.

**XI. Grade Appeal Policy:** Visit the link below for grade appeal instructions for the Department of Entomology:

<https://entomology.unl.edu/dishonesty>

**XII. Course Policies and Resources:** Visit the link below for UNL policies on Attendance, Academic Honesty, Students with Disabilities, Mental Health and Well Being, Emergency Procedures, Title IX, and Final Exam Schedules.

<https://executivevc.unl.edu/academic-excellence/teaching-resources/course-policies>