

BIOL 3840 - ENTOMOLOGY FALL 2018
SYLLABUS & COURSE POLICIES

Lecture: BC 2202 (MWF 9:00 – 9:50 a.m.)

Laboratory: BC 2071 - Section A, (Th 9:30 – 12:20); Section B (W 2 – 4:50)

Instructor: Dr. Mark Blackmore

Office: BC 2218, Tel. 259-5114; email = mblackmo@valdosta.edu

Office Hours: MWF 12-1:00; Tue 2-3:00 or by appointment

Research Lab: BC 2060, Tel. 245-6422

Course scope and objectives: This course is intended to introduce the student to the study of insects, their biology, ecology and behavior. Factors contributing to the diversity and success of these arthropods and their interactions with humans will be emphasized. Students are expected to learn the characters used to identify the more common and important North American taxa and to assemble a broadly representative collection of locally-occurring species. These correspond to Department of Biology Educational Outcomes 2 (“Describe the evolutionary processes responsible for biological diversity, explain the phylogenetic relationships among the major taxa of life, and provide illustrative examples”) and 5 (Interpret ecological data pertaining to the behavior of the individual organism in its natural environment; to the structure and function of populations, communities and ecosystems, and to the human impacts on these systems and the environment.”)

Introduction to the study of insect biology
including ecology, behavior and taxonomy. Laboratory includes field observation,
sampling and identification of local fauna.

Texts: *Fundamentals of Entomology* 6th ed. by R. J. Elzinga; recommended references *An Introduction to the Study of Insects* 6th ed. by Borror, Triplehorn & Johnson and *Insects, Spiders and Other Terrestrial Arthropods* by George C. McGavin.

Course requirements & grading policy: Students are expected to attend all scheduled lectures and laboratory sessions, take examinations and turn in an insect collection. One or two Saturday or overnight field trips are planned but scheduling depends on availability at the field stations. These extended field trips provide opportunities to broaden the collection. Participation is recommended but not mandatory.

Lecture topics will be covered in 3 one-hour examinations and a comprehensive final examination. These exams may consist of any combination of objective (fill-in, true-false, multiple choice) and subjective (essay, diagrams etc.) questions about material presented in class or in the text. ***Exams will be retained by the instructor*** for 1 calendar year; students may arrange to see these at any time. Laboratory material will be covered by 6 quizzes and 2 practical examinations (sight identification). Reading material assigned for the lab also may be covered on these tests but students will not be tested in the lab on subjects covered only in lecture. ***All tests are cumulative.*** Grading of the collection will include consideration of mounting technique, appropriateness of mounts, condition and appearance of specimens, proper labeling and identification, as well as content (see handout). Specifically, the collection should include a minimum of 4 arthropod classes, plus 15 orders and 75 families of insects. Oral presentations and curatorial duties to improve the teaching collection also may be assigned; satisfactory completion will earn additional points.

Points for the course will be allocated as follows:

LABORATORY

Quizzes: 75 pts (15 each, low score dropped)
 Practical Exam I: 75 pts
 Practical Exam II: 125 pts
 5 Lab reports: 25 pts
Collection: 200 pts
 TOTAL: 500 pts

LECTURE

Hour Exams 300 pts
Final Exam 200 pts
 TOTAL: 500 pts
Oral presentation
 Will not exceed 25 pts

The following scale will be used to assign final grades:

GRADE

POINTS EARNED

900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
< 600	F

Response along with a letter to the Dean of Students. See also:
<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>
<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsua.php>

Tentative Lecture Schedule – Fall 2018

Lecture Topics

Introduction: Why study insects?
Overview of Arthropods
Insect Body Plan: External Characteristics
Insect Body Plan: Internal Characteristics
Development & Specialization
Insect Ecology
Behavior & Sociality
Parasitism & Predation
Interactions with the Human World
Pest Management & Household Insects

Assigned Reading

Preface & handouts
Ch. 1
Ch. 2
Ch. 3
Ch. 4
Ch. 5
Ch. 6 & 7
Ch. 8 & 9
Ch. 10
Ch. 11 & 12

Special needs: Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in Farbar Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (V/VP) and 219-1348 (TTY).

Administration of online Student Opinion of Instruction (SOI):

At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available on BANNER. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI