

**BIOL 5840 - 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](mailto: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

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 responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators. Instructors will be able to view only a summary of all responses after they have submitted final grades. While instructors will not be able to view individual responses or to access any of the data until after final grade submission, they will be able to see which students have or have not completed their SOIs. These compliance and non-compliance reports will not be available once instructors are able to access the results. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey and a timetable for this term is available at SOI Procedures and Timelines (located at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academicaffairs/sois/welcome.php>).

**Title IX Statement:** Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age national origin, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: the Director of the Office of Social Equity, [titleix@valdosta.edu](mailto:titleix@valdosta.edu), 1208 N. Patterson St., N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5463.

**BIOL 5840:** Graduate students will complete the following work \_\_\_\_\_ assignments described above:

- (1) Prepare 45 minute PowerPoint presentations on topic assigned by instructor. These will be presented to the class during one of the lecture or lab periods.
- (2) Pool data from class collections and prepare a report in the style of the Journal of Environmental Entomology. (See instructor for more details)