

**BIOL 3840 - ENTOMOLOGY FALL 2020  
SYLLABUS & COURSE POLICIES**

**Lecture: 9:00 – 9:50 a.m. BC 2203 (Monday only) 3BC 1024 W Session AL**      **ŽÁhìQœ DŽÉ4A 0 "**

**Office Hours: By appointment**

---

**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)

covered only in lecture. All tests are cumulative. An insect collection is required. 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.

Points for the course will be allocated as follows:

<u>LABORATORY</u>	<u>LECTURE</u>
Quizzes: 50 pts (6 x 10 pt, low score dropped)	Hour Exams 300 pts
Practical Exam I: 50 pts	<u>Final Exam 100 pts</u>
Practical Exam II: 100 pts	TOTAL: 400 pts
<u>Collection: 200 pts</u>	
TOTAL: 400 pts	

The following scale will be used to assign final grades:

<u>POINTS EARNED</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
720-800	A
640-719	B
560-639	C
480-559	D
< 480	F

**Academic Integrity:**

Academic Honesty Policy: Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own, or doing work which will receive academic credit for another person) are all impermissible. This includes the use of electronic devices, unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an assignment or exam; the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were your own work. In this particular course, removing or altering collection information associated with specimens, deliberately damaging or removing specimens from the teaching collection is considered a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy and will be treated in the same manner as any other violation. Students are responsible for knowing, understanding and complying with the VSU Student Code of Conduct, in Appendix A of the Student Handbook (<http://www.valdosta.edu/stulife/handbook/>)

If substantial evidence exists for a violation of this policy, the student(s) involved will receive a grade of 'F' for the course and an official record will be filed following the Academic Integrity Response along with a letter to the Dean of Students. See also: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>  
<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsuhp>

## **Tentative Lecture Schedule – Fall 2020**

### **Lecture Topics**

Introduction: Why study insects?  
Overview of Arthropods

### **Assigned Reading**

Preface & handouts  
Ch.1



### **Coronavirus Resources Available for Students**

VSU cares about student success both on and offline, and a variety of resources are available to help students both academically and personally during the Fall 2020 semester. One of the best resources is VSU's Coronavirus FAQ page located at <https://www.valdosta.edu/health-advisory/faq.php>. Information is available there about a variety of topics in VSU's return-to-campus plan. A website devoted to the health and wellness of VSU students can be seen at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/campus-wellness/student-resources.php>.

You can find information, including how you can access the Brightspace Pulse app that will allow you to view BlazeVIEW on your smartphone at <https://www.d2l.com/products/pulse/>. In BlazeVIEW, all VSU students have a course with guides for how to use tools in BlazeVIEW; search for "VSU BlazeVIEW Student Tutorial 2020."