

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

Lecture: 9:00 – 9:50 a.m. BC 2203 (Monday only) BC1024 W Section A; F Section B

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

Instructor: Dr. Mark Blackmore

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

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 and the environment.”)

Catalogue Description: BIOL 3840/5840 Introduction to the study of insect biology including ecology, behavior and taxonomy. Laboratory includes field observation, sampling and identification of local fauna.

4 credit hours. Prerequisite: BIOL 1107K, BIOL 1108K

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 responsible for all material presented in lectures and laboratory sessions. Lecture examinations, laboratory quizzes and an insect collection are required. On-line communication and testing will use the BlazeVIEW D2L platform and students are expected to monitor this daily for instruction and assignments. The Instructor is not obligated to provide lecture notes, PowerPoint slides, or handouts beyond what is presented in class or on BlazeVIEW. Special circumstances may be taken into consideration if assignments are late or missed, but any make up work or alternative assignments will be determined by the professor and at the sole discretion of the professor.

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. 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.* 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 or 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

<u>Lecture Topics</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
Introduction: Why study insects?	Preface & handouts
Overview of Arthropods	Ch.1
Insect Body Plan: External Characteristics	Ch. 2
Insect Body Plan: Internal Characteristics	Ch. 3
Development & Specialization	Ch. 4
Insect Ecology	Ch. 5
Behavior & Sociality	Ch. 6 & 7
Parasitism & Predation	Ch. 8 & 9
Interactions with the Human World	Ch. 10
Pest Management & Household Insects	Ch. 11 & 12

Tentative lecture exam dates: Sept. 14, Oct. 19, Nov. 23.

Final exam 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., Friday Dec. 11

Tentative Lab Schedule (subject to weather conditions)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Activity</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
August 20	Distribute equipment, Collecting	Ch. 13 & 14
Aug. 27	Keys; Classification; Phylum Arthropoda; External morphology of insects, Insect orders; Apterygota,	pp. 10 & 21; 362-378
September 3	Quiz 1; Ephemeroptera & Odonata; Collecting trip	pp. 378-383
Sept. 10	Aquatic collecting	
Sept. 17	Quiz 2; Orthopteroid orders	pp. 383-389
Sept. 24	Isoptera, Dermaptera, Plecoptera Phthirapterans & Thysanoptera; Collecting	pp. 389-399
October 1	Quiz 3; Hemiptera, Megaloptera, Neuroptera	pp. 399-414
Oct. 8	Lab practicum I;	
Oct. 15	Coleoptera; Collecting	pp. 415-429
Oct. 22	Quiz 4; Hymenoptera, Mecoptera,	pp. 576-661
Oct. 29	Trichoptera; Lepidoptera; Collecting	pp. 439-449
November 5	Quiz 5; Siphonaptera; Diptera; Collecting	pp. 450-465
Nov. 12	Quiz 6; work on collections	
Nov 19	Lab practicum II; Collections due	
Nov. 25	<i>Thanksgiving Break – In-person classes end</i>	

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, 1208 N. Patterson St., N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5463.

Policy on Face Coverings

As the Blazer Creed articulates, members of the VSU community are expected to live by the high standards of civility, integrity, and citizenship and embrace their responsibility as a member of the Blazer community. In recognition of this responsibility, and in response to the best available science and current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Georgia Department of Public Health, **every student must wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth at all times while in any campus building, including in this classroom.** This requirement is intended to protect the health and safety of all VSU students, the instructor, and the entire university community. Anyone attending class without a face covering will be asked to put one on or leave. Students should also be sure they maintain a distance of at least six feet away from their fellow students and instructor and are seated in a seat that is designated to ensure that distance. *(Add other appropriate language specific to the class here.)* Students who refuse to wear face coverings appropriately or adhere to other stated requirements may face disciplinary action for Code of Conduct violations.

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."