

**BIOL 5840 - ENTOMOLOGY FALL 2022
SYLLABUS & COURSE POLICIES**

Lecture: 11:00 – 11:50 a.m.

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: MWF 1-2 p.m. or 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 (required); Recommended References *An Introduction to the Study of Insects* 6th ed. by Borror, Triplehorn & Johnson and *The Insects: An Outline of Entomology* 4th ed. by P. J. Gullan & P. S. Cranston

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 will use the BlazeVIEW D2L platform and students are expected to monitor this daily for instruction announcements 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:

LABORATORY

Quizzes: 50 pts (6 x 10 pt, low score dropped)

Practical Exam I: 50 pts

Practical Exam II: 100 pts

Collection: 200 pts

TOTAL: 400 pts

LECTURE

Hour Exams 300 pts (4 x 100 pt low score dropped)

Final Exam 100 pts

TOTAL: 400 pts

The following scale will be used to assign final grades: POINTS EARNED GRADE

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>
<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsuhp>

Tentative Lecture Schedule – Fall 2022

<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. 9, Oct. 21, Nov. 2, Dec. 2

Final exam 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., Thursday Dec. 8

Tentative Lab Schedule (subject to weather conditions)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Activity</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
August 18	Distribute equipment, Collecting	Ch. 13 & 14
Aug. 25	Keys; Classification; Phylum Arthropoda; External morphology of insects, Insect orders; Apterygota,	pp. 10 & 21; 362-378
September 1	Quiz 1; Ephemeroptera & Odonata; Collecting trip	pp. 378-383
Sept. 8	Aquatic collecting	
Sept. 15	Quiz 2; Orthopteroid orders	pp. 383-389
Sept. 22	Independent Collecting – No Lab	
Sept. 29	Dermaptera, Plecoptera Phthirapterans & Thysanoptera; Collecting	pp. 389-399
October 6	Quiz 3; Hemiptera, Megaloptera, Neuroptera	pp. 399-414
Oct. 13	Lab practicum I;	
Oct. 20	Coleoptera; Collecting	pp. 415-429
Oct. 27	Quiz 4; Hymenoptera, Mecoptera,	pp. 576-661
November 3	Trichoptera; Lepidoptera; Collecting	pp. 439-449
Nov. 10	Quiz 5; Siphonaptera; Diptera; Collecting	pp. 450-465
Nov. 17	Quiz 6; work on collections	
Nov. 24	<i>Thanksgiving Break –</i>	
December 1	Lab practicum II; Collections due	

Special needs: Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office (<https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>) for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu. To request reasonable accommodations for pregnancy and childbirth, contact Christina Kidd, Student Conduct Coordinator at chkidd@valdosta.edu. Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary.

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 through SmartEvals. 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, and they will be able to access results only after they have submitted final grades. Before final grade submission, instructors will not be able to see any responses, but they can see the percentage of students who have or have not completed their SOIs. While instructors will not be able to see student names, an automated system will send a reminder email to those who have yet to complete their SOIs. Students who withdraw or drop a course will also be sent invitations to complete the Dropped Course Survey. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey, is available on the SOI Procedures webpage.

Title IX Statement: Valdosta State University (VSU) upholds all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. The University prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. VSU considers sex discrimination in any form to be a serious offense. Title IX refers to all forms of sex discrimination committed against others, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence by other employees, students or third parties and gender inequity or unfair treatment based on an individual's sex/gender. The designated Title IX Coordinator for VSU is Mr. Darius Thomas. To view the full policy or to report an incident visit:

<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/>

Covid-19: Blazers protect Blazers. As members of a community, we seek to protect others and ourselves. The first line of protection against COVID 19 is to be fully vaccinated, including a booster(s). Vaccinations are strongly encouraged and are available free of charge through VSU Student Health Services and many local pharmacies. Information about scheduling an appointment at Student Health Services is available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-health/>. If you are experiencing COVID symptoms, use the testing available at the Student Health Center; you may also obtain a test at many other locations around town. To report an

absence to the Dean of Students Office, complete the form at
<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/absentee-notification-form.php>.
If you must self-isolate or quarantine, follow the directions provided by Student Health.