



THE INSECTS

ENY 2040 (3 CREDITS) | FALL 2025
ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE

INSTRUCTOR

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TA

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COURSE DETAILS

- Asynchronous online
- No pre-requisite courses
- No textbook

REQUIRED STUFF

Life in the Undergrowth DVD
(NOT THE BOOK!)
BBC Home Entertainment,
2006. Available for less than
\$20 via Amazon Streaming

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to “The Insects,” an immersive journey into the world’s most diverse and ecologically pervasive group of organisms. From the silken webs of spiders to the shimmering wings of butterflies, you will explore arthropod and insect biology through the lenses of evolution, anatomy, and behavior. This course will sharpen your observational skills as you venture into local habitats and learn to identify key characteristics of insect orders. You will investigate the roles insects play as pollinators, decomposers, pests, and disease vectors, assessing both their beneficial services and destructive impacts on humans.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the characteristics and key biological features of the major arthropod classes.
- Categorize insects by order based on key characteristics
- Summarize structural and chemical adaptations that insects use to carry out vital functions.
- Examine the roles insects play in different ecological communities.
- Explain the beneficial and destructive impacts of insects on humans.
- Locate insects in your environment and analyze their behavior.

GEN ED PURPOSE OF COURSE STATEMENT

Gen Ed courses in the biological sciences introduce students to the basic concepts of science and the scientific method and enhance awareness of scientific developments and their impact on society and the environment. This area provides students with an understanding of basic scientific terms, concepts, and theories and the ability to formulate testable hypotheses from the study of living things.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

1. All assignments and assessments are due Sundays at midnight.
2. Exams open on Mondays at 7 am and close Tuesdays at midnight.
3. Full points on the reading (Perusall) assignments cannot be earned if you wait until the last minute. You must space your participation out over the week..
4. All due dates are listed in this syllabus and in the calendar on Canvas from the first day of the semester and will not change.

MAKE UP POLICY

Requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Assignments lose 10% for each day they are late. Discussions and quizzes cannot be completed after the associated deadline.

Technical Difficulties: Any student who has technical trouble with an exam must first contact the UF Computing Help Desk (<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>) and obtain a ticket number. Please do this before contacting the instructor. Requests to reopen an assessment without an IT Help Desk Ticket number will not be considered.

EVALUATION AND GRADING SCALE

Course grades are based on quizzes, assignments, Perusall readings, and exams. The grading scale is based on **320 possible points**. Grades are absolute. There will NOT be additional extra credit at the end of the semester or rounding of grades beyond the extra credit offered posted in the Announcements at the beginning of the semester.

Grade are posted in the online Gradebook on Canvas. If you have questions about grades that have been posted, please email us using "Teachers" as the recipient in the Canvas email tool with your question or schedule an appointment to meet.

EXAM 1	30
EXAM 2	30
EXAM 3	30
13 QUIZZES (DROP 1)	120
INSECT FIELD STUDY (6)	60
PERUSALL READINGS (3)	45
INTRODUCE YOURSELF	5
TOTAL POINTS.	320

Grade	Min.Points Needed
A	297
A-	288
B+	278
B	265
B-	256
C+	246
C	233
C-	224
D+	214
D	201
D-	192
E	<192

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

ASSIGNMENT, QUIZ, DISCUSSION, AND EXAM DETAILS

QUIZZES: There are 13 OPEN NOTE quizzes worth 10 points each. The lowest quiz score is dropped so only 12 quizzes count towards your grade.

ASSIGNMENTS (instructions in Canvas):

1. INTRODUCE YOURSELF (5 pts.) on Discussion board.
2. Six INSECT OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENTS (10 points each for 60 total pts.). Directions in Canvas.
3. Three PERUSALL ASSIGNMENTS (15 pts. ea. for a total of 45 points). Perusall is a social annotation tool that helps you master readings faster & understand the material better. You will be collaboratively annotating 3 assigned readings with others in your class. You can start a new annotation thread in Perusall by highlighting text, asking a question, or posting a comment; you can also add a reply or comment to an existing thread. Each thread is like a chat with one or more members of your class, and it happens in real time. Your goals in annotating each reading assignment are to stimulate discussion by posting good questions or comments and to help others by answering their questions.

EXAMS: There are three non-cumulative, closed book (no use of notes or other resources), online exams worth 30 point each for 90 points.

Exam 1 Modules 1-4

Exam 2 Modules 5-7

Exam 3 Modules 8-11 plus you must know all insect orders

These exams are timed and proctored via Honorlock. The exams open at 7 am on a Monday and close at midnight on Tuesday.

Study Tips: Review each lecture topic via the ungraded review quizzes that are provided under the Quizzes tab. Use the learning objectives at the beginning of each lecture to guide your study efforts

Schedule

Week	Date	Course Material Covered	Deliverables due Sunday at Midnight unless noted
1	Aug 21	Module 1: Course Introduction: Why Study Insects Nomenclature and Classification LIU Episode 1, Part 1	8/24 Introduce Yourself 8/24 Quiz 1
2	Aug 25	Module 2: Arthropods and Arachnids LIU 3: Silk Spinners	8/31 Quiz 2 8/31 Perusall 1
3	Sep 1	Module 3: Insect Structure, Development, & Molting LIU 2: Taking to the Air	9/7 Quiz 3 9/7 Insect Field Study 1
4	Sep 8	Module 4: Insect Orders 1 & 2	9/14 Quiz 4
5	Sep 15	Exam 1 open Mon 9/15 & Tues 9/16 Module 5: Insect Orders 3 & 4	Exam 1 (Modules 1-4) 9/21 Quiz 5
6	Sep 22	Module 6: Chemical Communication & Social Insects	9/28 Quiz 6 9/28 Insect Field Study 2
7	Sep 29	Module 6 (continued): Relatedness LIU 5: Super Societies	10/5 Quiz 7 10/5 Perusall 2
8	Oct 6	Module 7: Phylogenetics Natural Selection & Speciation	10/12 Quiz 8 10/12 Insect Field Study 3
9	Oct 13	Module 7 (continued): Adaptive Coloration & Mimicry	10/19 Quiz 9 10/19 Insect Field Study 4
10	Oct 20	EXAM 2 open Mon 10/20 & Tues 10/21 Module 8: Pollination Biology 1 & 2 LIU 4: Intimate Relations	Exam 2 (Module 5-7) 10/26 Module Quiz 10
11	Oct 27	Module 9: Part 1 Reconsidering the Scientific Method Model Organisms,	11/2 Insect Field Study 5
12	Nov 3	Module 9: Part 2 Invasive Species	11/9 Quiz 11
13	Nov 10	Module 10: Insects and Disease	11/16 Quiz 12 11/16 Perusall 3
14	Nov 17	Module 11: Insects in Art, Insects as Weapons, Insects in Industry	11/23 Quiz 13 11/23 Insect Field Study 6
15	Nov 24	No content- Holidays	Nothing due - holidays
16	Dec 1	Exam 3 open Mon 12/1 – Wed 12/3	Exam 3 (Modules 8 - 11) and all insect orders