



Course Syllabus: **Entomology (Graduate)**

College of Science and Mathematics

BIOL 3434 Section 101

Fall 2023

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Roy Vogtsberger

Office: Bolin 218B

Office hours: M 2-3, T 2-4, W 2-4

Office phone: (940) 397-4612

E-mail: roy.vogtsberger@msutexas.edu

Course Description

Principles of insect life. Classification, life histories, and economic relations.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Required Text: Borror and DeLong's Introduction to the Study of Insects, 7th Edition, by Charles A. Triplehorn and Norman F. Johnson, 2005. Suggested Supplementary Text: Photographic Atlas of Entomology and Guide to Insect Identification, by James L. Castner, 2000.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2023-2024](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Student Handbook 2023-2024](#)

Grading

Table 1: Percentage allocated to each assignment.

Assignments	Percentage
Lecture Test #1	15
Lecture Test #2	15
Lecture Final Exam	15

Assignments	Percentage
Graduate Presentation	5
Lab Exam #1	4
Lab Final Exam	6
Insect Collection	40
Total Percentage	100

Table 2: Total percentage for final grade.

Grade	Percentage
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Lecture Exams

There will be three, equally-weighted major exams (including the final exam) that will each be worth 16.67% of your overall grade for the class. The final exam will NOT be comprehensive but will cover all of the material since the previous exam. Exams will usually contain various types of testing formats (i.e. multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill in the blank, listing, drawing/labeling, and short answer). You **MUST** present a valid university excuse to make up a missed lecture exam. A missed exam should be made up immediately (i.e. before exams are passed back to the class).

Final Exam

Final exam will count 16.67% of your overall grade for the class, will contain various types of testing formats (i.e. multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill in the blank, listing, drawing/labeling, and short answer), and will be administered from 8:00-10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

Projects Required

An extensive insect collection is required to pass this course. Details are given in the laboratory syllabus.

Graduate Presentation

You will be required to give a 15-minute oral presentation over any current entomological topic of your choice. The presentation must contain peer-reviewed research published within the last three years. There are **numerous** journals devoted to publication of entomological research. Various general topics involve behavior, physiology, evolution, paleontology, taxonomy, biological control, ecology, conservation, forensics, parasitology, immature insects, aquatic entomology, entomophagous insects, etc. You will need to spend time searching the entomological literature and deciding on what you will present to the class.

Some entomological-based journals are available online with searchable free access. Others you will only have access to the abstract and may want to order the article through Interlibrary Loan. Do not procrastinate in working on this assignment. I suggest you start on it at the beginning of the semester. A handout that includes an abstract of your presentation and citations of all references that were used in developing your presentation should be prepared to give to your instructor and pass out to all class members on the day of your presentation. Citation format should follow one specific journal style. You will need to inform me what journal style you are following. Make sure you are prepared to answer questions about your presentation. In order to prevent duplication of topics, please inform the instructor of your chosen topic as soon as you have decided on it. You will need to provide the instructor with the title of your presentation the **week before** you give your presentation. Presentations will occur during lab time. We will decide on the actual presentation dates within the first couple of weeks of class. You will deliver your presentation near mid-semester. This presentation will be worth 5.00% of your overall course grade for the class.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities are available in association with the insect collection requirement. Details are given in the laboratory syllabus.

Late Work

Points will be deducted for turning in your insect collection after the due date and time. Details are given in the laboratory syllabus.

Make Up Tests

Make-up exams will be administered ONLY FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES OR UNIVERSITY-AUTHORIZED ABSENCES. You **MUST** present a valid university excuse to me and/or make arrangements with me **BEFORE** the exam is missed in order to be able to make up a missed lecture exam. If a make-up exam is granted, it should be taken immediately (i.e. before exams are passed back to the class).

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 31, 2023.

Deadline to file for graduation: September 25, 2023.

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" October 30, 2023.

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes. A lot of material is presented in each class period, which makes it easy to fall behind if a class is missed. If you miss a class, it is **YOUR** responsibility to get class notes from classmates or any handouts from your instructor. Students with excessive absences usually result in failure of the course and may be dropped by the instructor. Students should

refer to the current MSU Handbook and Activities Calendar for university policy on academic dishonesty, class attendance, student rights and activities. For example, see page 43 for information on class attendance policy and page 8 for the student honor creed.

Aids for Success

You paid a lot of money for your textbook and I feel that by the time you complete this course you will believe you got your money's worth. The required textbook for this course is one of the most invaluable resources a person can have concerning entomology and should play a key role in your learning about insects. Much of the material for exams will be derived from the textbook. Read the chapter(s) assigned for each class period. Lectures should correspond to the chapters indicated on your syllabus. **Take thorough lecture notes** to make sure you get material covered in lecture that is not in the text. Make sure and ask questions if you don't understand something.

Class Policies

Class Prerequisite: Eight semester hours of biology, each course with a grade of C or better.

Class Requirements: This class contains both a lecture and separate lab component to it. You must be registered in both the lecture and lab and attend both.

ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES SHOULD BE **OFF IN THE CLASSROOM. THIS INCLUDES PHONES AND LAPTOPS.**

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. **HOWEVER**, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors

to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule

Week or Date	Topics/Exams	Chapters
Week 1 8/29 to 8/31	Introduction; Course Details; Relation of Insects to Humans; Phylum Arthropoda	5
Week 2 9/5 to 9/7	Phylum Arthropoda; Anatomy, Physiology, and Development of Insects	5, 2

Week or Date	Topics/Exams	Chapters
Week 3 9/12 to 9/14	Anatomy, Physiology, and Development of Insects	2
Week 4 9/19 to 9/21	Anatomy, Physiology, and Development of Insects; Classification, Nomenclature, and Identification	2, 3
Week 5 9/26	Hexapoda	6
9/28	Test #1	2, 3, 5, 6
Week 6 10/3 to 10/5	Entognathous Hexapods and Apterygote Insects; Ephemeroptera and Odonata	7, 8, 9, 10
Week 7 10/10 to 10/12	Odonata, Orthoptera, Phasmatodea, Grylloblattodea, and Mantophasmatodea	10, 11, 12, 13, 14
Week 8 10/17 to 10/19	Dermaptera, Plecoptera, Embiidina, Zoraptera, and Isoptera	15, 16, 17, 18, 19
Week 9 10/24 to 10/26	Mantodea, Blattodea, and Hemiptera	20, 21, 22
Week 10 10/31 to 11/2	Hemiptera, Thysanoptera, Psocoptera, and Phthiraptera	22, 23, 24, 25
11/7	Test #2	7-25
Week 11 11/9	Coleoptera	26
Week 12 11/14 to 11/16	Coleoptera and Neuroptera	26, 27
Week 13 11/21	Hymenoptera and Trichoptera	28, 29
11/23	Thanksgiving Break	Have some turkey!
Week 14 11/28 to 11/30	Trichoptera, Lepidoptera and Siphonaptera	29, 30, 31
Week 15 12/5 to 12/7	Mecoptera, Strepsiptera, and Diptera	32, 33, 34
12/12	Final Exam	26-34