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BIOL 410.01: Insect Biology

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Instructor: Douglas J. Emlen
Teaching Assistant: Tara Prestholdt

This will be a four credit class introducing students to the biology of insects. Lectures will cover the mechanics of being an insect (how insects are put together and how they function), they will cover the diversity of insects, including how to tell the major groups of insects apart, and they will cover the development, ecology, natural history and behavior of insects. I will end with several lectures addressing the impacts of insects (both good and bad) on human populations, and we will begin to explore methods of controlling insect outbreaks.

Lectures will be complemented with Laboratories that provide students with a hands-on introduction to the external and internal anatomy of insects, as well as use of taxonomic keys to the major insect families.

Written reports will comprise three essays during the course of the semester. Students will draw the names of an insect family and an insect species from a hat, and prepare a research report on each of these assigned insect taxa. The third report will consist of a re-write of the insect species paper. Each report should be two to three pages in length, and should be well-organized and well-written. It is strongly recommended that **drafts** of each paper be subjected to peer review **prior to submission**. These papers will be graded both for content **and writing**. I will edit the papers as if they were professional manuscripts, and return them with written comments and suggestions. Papers will be due at three staggered dates during the semester, so that feedback from the first paper may be incorporated into the writing of the second, etc. Students will also be expected to prepare a three-minute talk on their assigned insect species. Student presentations will take place during a mini-symposium at the end of the semester. Grading of talks will focus on content, organization, and presentation clarity.

Course Grading

Midterm Exam (lecture)	15%
Final Exam (lecture)	20%
First Lab-Practical (anatomy)	15%
Second Lab-Practical (taxonomy)	15%
Written Reports	15%
Oral Presentation	5%
Insect Collection	15%