

Overview of ENTO 431/432: Forensic Entomology

Description: The course will explore the use of information about insects and other arthropods in the science of Forensics, particularly as this information pertains to investigations of human and animal deaths and abuse, food and other product contamination, thefts, the illegal drug trade, and unethical entomological practices and the subsequent use of this information in court-of-law proceedings that may result from such investigations. (**Lecture Section/431: 3 Credit Hours; Laboratory Section/432: 1 Credit Hour**)

Prerequisites: None, save students must be concurrently enrolled in ENTO 431 or have previously taken ENTO 431 to be enrolled in ENTO 432

Text: Byrd, Jason H., and James L. Castner (Eds.). 2001. Forensic Entomology: The Utility of Arthropods in Legal Investigations. CRC. 440 p. ISBN: 0849381207

Instructor: Adrienne Brundage

Office: HPCT 420 (W. Campus, Minnie Bell Heep)

Phone: None yet

Email: Brundage@ForensicEntomologist.Com

Office Hours: M 3:00-5:00, T 3:00-5:00, W 2:00-5:00, (by appointment at other times)

Website: www.ForensicEntomologist.com

Updates, information, and lectures are available on the website

Teaching Assistants: Micah Flores, Jen Pechal, and Stacy Boatright

Office: Room 3, Medical Ento. Lab (Bldg 1043)-Urban Ento Center (W. Campus)

Phone: 979-845-8682

Email: tennis_micah@tamu.edu, jenpechal18@tamu.edu, AggieStace07@tamu.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Schedule: Lec (ENTO 431): M, W, F; 12:40-1:30 PM KLCT 113

Lab (ENTO 432): M 1:50-4:40 PM or T 2:20-5:10 PM HPCT 210

Course Goal: Students successfully completing this course will have a working knowledge of how entomological information is gathered, interpreted, recorded, preserved and used in forensic types of investigations

Course Objectives: **1)** To provide a broad understanding of the biologies of the ecological roles played by the specific insect and other arthropod groups of invertebrates most commonly involved in forensic investigations; **2)** To provide insight as to the collecting, analyzing, preserving, and using of entomological information in forensic investigations; **3)** To provide experiences in the identification of various life stages of insects and other arthropods of

importance to the field of Forensic Entomology; and 4) To provide insight as to how entomological information of a forensic nature is presented and otherwise used in formal proceedings in courts of law.

Student Evaluation and Course Grades

ENTO 431 (Lecture): Three (3) equally-weighted examinations (100 points each) given over material presented during the lecture periods, ten (10) twenty-point quizzes, one (1) twenty-point individual homework assignment, as well as one (1) written group assignment (200 points) will be used as the basis for evaluating student learning in this aspect of the course. The final grade will be the percentage of points earned out of 720 total points possible.

ENTO 432 (Laboratory): Three (3) laboratory practical examinations and two (2) special graded exercises (100 points each) will serve as the basis for evaluation of student learning in this aspect of the course. The final grade will be the percentage of points earned out of 500 total points possible.

Grading will be based on: A = 100-90%; B = 89-80%; C = 79-70%; D = 69-60%; F = 59-0%

Makeups: No makeups are given without a University Approved Excuse

Makeup exams must be taken within 2 weeks of missed date or a "0" will be given

The final will be held in KLCT 113 on Monday, May 11, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The exam is not cumulative. Now you know, so you don't need to ask.

Syllabus Outline N 2008

Note: This schedule is subject to change according to guest speaker availability. Students will be notified at least 1 week in advance of any change

Lecture	Date	Description	Reading	Quiz
1	1/21/2009	Overview of Course	None	
2	1/23/2009	Focus of Forensic Entomology	None	
3	1/26/2009	Focus & History of Forensic Entomology	pg. 8-11	
4	1/28/2009	General Arthropod Biology & Entomology	pg. 17-41	
5	1/30/2009	General Arthropod Biology & Entomology	pg. 17-41	Quiz 1
6	2/2/2009	Development & Orders	None	

Lecture	Date	Description	Reading	Quiz
7	2/4/2009	Guest Speaker: Curtis Klinge, Crime Scene Investigation	None	
8	2/6/2008	Orders and Diptera	pg. 44-45	Quiz 2
9	2/9/2009	Calliphoridae	pg. 45-52	
10	2/11/2009	Calliphoridae	pg. 45-52	
11	2/13/2009	Wikipedia Assignment	None	Quiz 3
12	2/16/2009	No Class	None	
13	2/18/2009	No Class, Wiki Topic Choice Due	None	
14	2/20/2009	No Class, Wiki Appointment Due	None	
15	2/23/2009	Calliphoridae & Sarcophagidae	pg. 45-52	
16	2/25/2009	Review for Midterm 1	None	
17	2/27/2009	Midterm 1 (Lectures 2-8)	None	
18	3/2/2009	Muscidae	pg. 52-59	
19	3/4/2009	Guest Speaker: Detective Chris Loup	None	
20	3/6/2009	Beetles Pt. 1	pg. 61-73	Quiz 4
21	3/9/2009	Beetles Pt. 2	pg. 61-73	
22	3/11/2009	Beetles Pt. 3	pg. 61-73	
23	3/13/2009	Other Arthropods of Forensic Importance	pg. 73-75	Quiz 5
	3/16-3/20	Spring Break (Have fun, don't die!)		
24	3/23/2009	Faunal Succession	pg. 143-149	
25	3/25/2009	Collection & Rearing	pg. 121-139	
26	3/27/2009	Collection at the Crime Scene	pg. 81-120	Quiz 6
27	3/30/2009	Temperature	pg. 287-300	
28	4/1/2009	Review for Midterm 2	None	
29	4/3/2009	Midterm 2 (Lectures 12-25)	None	
30	4/6/2009	Forensic Pathology pt. 1	None	

Lecture	Date	Description	Reading	Quiz
31	4/8/2009	Forensic Pathology pt. 2	None	Quiz 7
32	4/10/2009	Reading Day: No Class		
33	4/13/2009	Faunal Succession and Human Decay	pg. 263-281	
34	4/15/2009	Guest Speaker: Dr. Vaughn Bryant	PDF Articles	
35	4/17/2009	Geographical Location	None	Quiz 8
36	4/20/2009	Wrapped, Burned and Hanged	pg. 163-166	
37	4/22/2009	Burying and Mummification	pg. 152-154	
38	4/24/2009	Immersion in Water	pg. 177-210	Quiz 9
39	4/27/2009	Guest Speaker: Brent Munyon	None	
40	4/29/2009	Depositions	None	
41	5/1/2009	Depositions	None	Quiz 10
42	5/4/2009	Depositions	None	
43	4/5/2009	Redefined Day: Review for Final	None	
	5/11/2009	Final Exam: 10:30-12:30 (Lectures 24-36)		

Teaching Laboratory Safety

The Department of Entomology is committed to the safety of all students and employees participating in teaching laboratories. To ensure that a safe environment is maintained in our teaching laboratories, it is expected that all students will adhere to general safety guidelines and emergency procedures, as well as course-specific and activity-specific safety instructions provided by faculty and teaching assistants. Laboratory safety and emergency procedures will be reviewed during the first class period and you will be asked to sign your acknowledgement of these instructions before attending further classes in this course.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement

The following ADA Policy Statement (part of the Policy on Individual Disabling Conditions) was submitted to the University Curriculum Committee by the Department of Student Life. The policy statement was forwarded to the Faculty Senate for information. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an

accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in Room B118 of Cain Hall or call 845-1637.

Aggie Honor Code

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Texas A&M University community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit: www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/