

Syllabus
ENTO/FIVS 432 Applied Forensic Entomology

Spring Semester 2014
One Credit Hour
Monday 3-5:30, Tuesday 4-6:50, or Thursday 5:30-8:20
Room 210 Heep Center-West Campus

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Tarone, Assistant Professor

Department of Entomology
Texas A&M University
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Email: amtarone@ag.tamu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 8:30AM-9:30AM, 11-12 AM (or by appointment)

Teaching Assistants: Ashleigh Faris & Meaghan Pimsler

Meaghan Pimsler (ENTO/FIVS 432-501)
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Ashleigh Faris (ENTO/FIVS 432-502/503)
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Description/Expectations: This is an introductory course designed to provide students with a basic understanding of the interaction between the discipline of entomology and the legal system. Students will receive practical experience using scientific information, methodology, technology, and legal procedures inherent to the field of forensic entomology. An emphasis will be placed on collection, preservation, identification, analysis, and presentation of information derived from arthropod samples collected as evidence.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will be expected to identify forensically important arthropods. They will learn to collect, analyze, and present data to their peers. Students will develop and test a hypothesis related to forensic entomology.

Prerequisites: Registration at Texas A&M University. Completion of, or registration in, ENTO/FIVS 431.

Text: How to Know the Insects. Roger G. Bland and H. E. Jaques. 1978. 3rd edition or later.

Grading:

Grading Scheme:

A=90-100% of cumulative points; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=<60.

Estimated Schedule of Classroom Activities (Schedule and Assignments are Subject to Change; Students are Held Responsible for Keeping Track of Updates to the Schedule):

<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Lab</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Points</u>
1/13/2014	1	Arthropod orders, Grasshopper Dissections, Urban Entomology	10
1/20/2014	2	Group work on dichotomous key (Labs do not meet)	10
1/27/2014	3	Test on Arthropods (50 pts), Beetle Families	60
2/3/2014	4	Fly Families (Adult)	10
2/10/2014	5	Midterm Practical	100
2/17/2014	6	Fly genera and species (Adult)	10
2/24/2014	7	Fly larvae	10
3/3/2014	8	Pig Collection	10
3/10/2014		Spring Break	
3/17/2014	9	ID, measure, prepare report: Larvae First	10
3/24/2014	10	ID, measure, prepare report	10
3/31/2014	11	Midterm Practical, Report (30 Pts)	130
4/7/2014	12	Hypothesis, Lab Depositions	10
4/14/2014	13	Test Hypothesis, Report Debriefing	10
4/21/2014	14	ID, measure, prepare report on hypothesis	10
4/28/2014	15	Final report	100
		Total	500

Classroom Expectations: Be in class on time and be prepared for classroom discussion/participation. Turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other communication devices that would cause interruptions. Gentlemen remove caps. Be aware of and observe all classroom safety rules and regulations. Assist and respect others. Attendance is mandatory.

Make ups: No make ups are given without a University Approved Excuse. University policy also requires that students contact the instructor within two business days of the absence to inform the instructor of their intention to make up the activity, assignment, or exam. Make up exams must be taken within 2 weeks of missed date or a "0" will be given. Make up assignments must be turned in within 1 week of missed date or a "0" will be given. Late assignments will lose one full grade (A downgraded to a B, etc.) per day, starting at the beginning of the course on the due date of an assignment. Yes, that means

that, if you are late to class, your grade will drop one full grade. If you don't get the assignment to me within 24 hours of the beginning of the course on the due date, you will lose two full grades.

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

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 Cain Hall or call 845-1637.

Academic Integrity Statement

“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.