

Pests, Plagues and Politics

ENT 300/HORT 330 (3 credits)

Course Location: Ecampus

This course combines approximately 90 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 3 credits.

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Course description: This is a terminal entomology course for non-science majors. Lectures focus on the integration and interaction of cultural, agricultural, and public health aspects of entomology in society and throughout history. This course explores how insect science has been inextricably linked with, and continues to contribute to, technological advancements by human society.

This course fulfills the Baccalaureate Core requirement for the Science, Technology and Society (STS) category. It does this by illustrating the historical and modern connections between entomology and many other human endeavors and how the study of insects has impacted human society.

Bacc Core STS Learning Outcomes*:

1. Analyze relationships among science, technology, and society using critical perspectives or examples from historical, political, or economic disciplines.
2. Analyze the role of science and technology in shaping diverse fields of study over time.
3. Articulate in writing a critical perspective on issues involving science, technology, and society using evidence as support

**Learning outcomes will be assessed via weekly discussion posts and a final project.*

Course Objectives: As insects represent the largest and most successful taxon of animals in the world, the goals and objectives of this course appropriately include:

- 1) The recognition and appreciation of the influence of insects on human society, past, present and future.
- 2) To understand the roles of insects in various areas of human activity, including art & music, religion, warfare, and the law.
- 3) To develop a more complete understanding of insects as competitors for our food supply and the measures taken to mitigate their damage.
- 4) To recognize the role of insects as vectors of human disease and the historical impacts this has had on the present geopolitical structure of human societies.
- 5) To abate or hopefully eliminate the faunal chauvinism displayed towards insects in general.

Career Readiness Outcomes:

The National Association of Colleges and Employers ([NACE](#)) has created a list of career competencies that, if properly developed, will help graduates to be successful in their careers. This course will address the following competencies:

| NACE Competency | Course activities that will develop this competency |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Communication | 'Writing to learn' discussions; final project section drafts; peer review assignment; final project |
| Critical Thinking/Problem Solving | Selection of your Final Project topic (how do you connect entomology to your chosen field?); 'Writing to learn' discussions |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Teamwork/Collaboration | Peer review assignment |
| Information Technology Application | Build a website as your final project |

Course content:

Canvas — This course will be delivered via Canvas, your online learning community, where you will interact with your classmates and with your instructor. Within the Canvas course site, you will access the learning materials, tutorials, and syllabus; discuss issues; submit assignments; take quizzes and exams; email other students and the instructor; participate in online activities; and display your projects.

To preview how an online course works, visit the [Ecampus Course Demo](#). For technical assistance, Canvas and otherwise, see <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/technical-help.htm>.

Learning resources:

Learning material will be provided by the course instructor (at no cost to the student) in weekly units in the Modules section of the course Canvas site.

Recommended Outside Reading (Not Required - Optional):

H.E. Evans. 1978. *Life on a Little Known Planet*. E.P. Dutton, NY.
Cranshaw, W. & R. Redak. 2013. *Bugs Rule!* Princeton University Press, NJ.

Lecture Schedule:

| Week | Topics | Optional Reading |
|------|--|------------------|
| 1 | The Success of Insects | Evans, Ch.13 |
| | The Mechanics of Insects | Evans, Ch.1 |
| | The Naming of Insects: Aristotle, Linnaeus and Beyond | C&R Ch. 1-4 |
| 2 | How Insects Got That Way – Evolution | C&R Ch. 7 |
| | Insect Communication: Light and Sound Shows | C&R Ch. 9 |
| | Insect Music, Art & Poetry | Evans, Ch.5 |
| 3 | Insect Products: Silk, Lac, Ink & Paper | C&R Ch. 8 |
| | Insect Products: The Harvest of the Hive | C&R Ch. 15 |
| | Entomological Evangelisms: "Killer" Bees | |
| 4 | Dangerous Insects | C&R Ch. 18 |
| | Insects Living On You | C&R Ch. 12 |
| | Insects In Your Diet: Entomophagy {Me?? Eat a bug?? – NEVER!! } | |
| 5 | | |
| | Insects and the Law | Evans, Ch.6 |
| | Entomological Evangelisms: The Colorado Potato Beetle | C&R Ch. 14 |
| 6 | Insects & Agriculture - Where's the Problem???? | |
| | Alternative Insect Control: Pre- & Post DDT | |
| | Who Eats Whom: "Natural" Insect Control | C&R Ch. 14 |
| 7 | Insect Communication: The Perfumes of Sex & Life | C&R Appendix 1 |
| | Entomological Evangelisms: Gypsy Moths in Paradise | C&R Ch. 16 |
| | Insects & Metaphysics: From Pharaohs to Salt Lake City | |
| 8 | The Year of the Locusts & other Biblical Plagues | |
| | Further Plagues: The Black Death | C&R Ch. 17 |
| | Insect Borne Disease (continued): Have We Conquered Malaria??? | Evans, Ch.10 |
| 9 | Insects and the Physician | |
| | Bugs as Bombs: Insects & Militarism | |
| | Entomologists & Insects as Heroes | Evans, Ch.12 |
| 10 | | |

Evaluation of Student Performance: In the OSU online catalog, refer to AT 18 and AR 19 regarding assignment of grades: <http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=75 - Section2886>

| Grades will be based on: | Total Points |
|---|---------------------|
| Weekly Discussion Posts (10-20 pts each) | 180 |
| Lecture Quizzes (10 pts each x 26 lectures) | 260 |
| <u>Insects and Culture Project</u> | 320 |
| Total | 760 |

Grades assigned on the following scale:

- 90 – 100 % = A
- 87 – 89.99% = B+
- 80 – 86.99% = B
- 77 – 79.99% = C+
- 70 – 76.99% = C
- 67 – 69.99% = D+
- 65 – 66.99% = D
- 64.99% & below = F

Course Policies

Incompletes: I give Incomplete (I) grades only in emergency cases (usually only for a death in the family, major illness or injury, or birth of your child), **and** if the student has completed 60% of the points possible (in other words, usually everything but the final paper). If you are having any difficulty that might prevent you completing the coursework, please don't wait until the end of the term; let me know right away.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities: Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at <http://ds.oregonstate.edu/>. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: It is my intent that this course serves students of all identities from diverse backgrounds and life circumstances. If you are observing a religious holiday that conflicts with our course deadlines, please let me know and I will be happy to accommodate you. I also understand that some of you may feel marginalized or intimidated in our online classroom, and some of you may be struggling to feel successful in your studies as a result of difficult or challenging circumstances in your personal lives. If this is you, I encourage you to reach out to me via email. I am a friendly and understanding person, and I want every one of you to pass my class. Please communicate your struggles to me in a timely manner so that we can make the most of the opportunity to help you feel successful.

Student Assistance

Contacting the instructor: The best way to get a hold of me is by email. Office hours (in person or video conference) can be arranged by appointment.

Technical Assistance: If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the [IS Service Desk](#) to submit a request for assistance. For 24/7 support for courses offered in Canvas, click the Help link in the lower left corner of any Canvas course site.

Expectations for Student Conduct: Student conduct is governed by the university's policies, as explained in the [Code of Student Conduct](#) which can be found on the [Student Conduct and Community Standards](#) website. In an academic community, students and faculty, and staff each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment, whether online or in the classroom. Students, faculty, and staff have the responsibility to treat each other with understanding, dignity and respect. Disruption of teaching, administration, research, and other institutional activities is prohibited and is subject to sanctions under university policies.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty, defined as: *An intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work.* For further information, visit [Avoiding Academic Dishonesty](#), or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

Conduct in this online classroom: Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded themselves. Disrespectful behavior to others (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors in the course (such as persistent and unreasonable demands for time and attention both in and out of the classroom) is unacceptable and can result in sanctions.

Course Evaluation

OSU Student Evaluation of Teaching: The online Student Evaluation of Teaching system opens to students the Monday of dead week and closes the Monday following the end of finals. Students will receive notification, instructions and the link through their ONID. They may also log into the system via Online Services. Course evaluation results are extremely important and used to help improve courses and the learning experience of future students. Responses are anonymous (unless a student chooses to "sign" their comments agreeing to relinquish anonymity) and unavailable to instructors until after grades have been posted. The results of scaled questions and signed comments go to both the instructor and their unit head/supervisor. Anonymous (unsigned) comments go to the instructor only.