Hi, I'm Rebecca Baldwin and I will be your instructor for Principles of Entomology this semester. Because this is a distant learning course, I want to give you a bit of introduction. We don't get to see each other in the classroom so, Hello.

This course will consist of 15 units with study guides, videos, and interactive slides. As you progress through these units, you will work at your own pace. But there will be an exam for every 5 units you complete for a total of 3 exams during this semester. The final exam will be comprehensive so keep that in mind as you progress through the units.

Besides exams you will also have journal entries that will be worth 10 points each during the semester. Now these journals aren't in one location, they are scattered throughout the units and mainly consist of thought questions that I'll have you answer in a journal entry form. Each journal is approximately one half to one page long and can be submitted by email as you go, if you would like feedback. Or it can be turned in as a complete journal at the end of this semester. These instructions can be found on your syllabus and your first journal assignment will be in unit One. And the assignment is for you to email me and introduce yourself.

When you open each unit, you will first see a menu. From this menu, you can print the study guide or see a list of videos that may be available during that unit. The study guides are going to be invaluable to you as you complete each unit. At the beginning of each study guide there is a list of objectives. Pay really close attention to these objectives, because this is the way I will base the test questions. There are also associated text book readings with each unit. These text book readings can be found on the course outline page of the syllabus and they can also be found as you go through the unit on each slide associated with that text book reading. Be sure that you watch associated videos, and read all of the text book readings before you attempt to take the exam. Now, the exam is going to be open book and open notes but keep in mind that all of the answers must be answered by you individually and cannot be answered by others in the class or formal students from the class.

I really hope you enjoy this distant learning experience this semester. You are going to have a great time learning about the world of Entomology. Now for many of you this is going to be a first time experience and you may feel a little strange picking up insects. If you have any trouble or any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me, I am here for you. You can contact me by email or by phone. My contact information can be found on the menu of the cd, or the course syllabus, or the course webpage. Well good luck and have a great semester. I am a big Gator fan, so if you are on campus and see me at a football game, basketball game, or baseball game, please feel free to come up and say hi. Go Gators!