

NEM 5002C -- GRADUATE SURVEY OF NEMATODOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR

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Please use the email function in WEBCT to communicate with the instructor, except when not available.

ABOUT THE COURSE

This is a distance education course offered via the University of Florida E-learning system (WEBCT). The class material is delivered via narrated PowerPoint lectures presented by Dr. Giblin-Davis and guest lecturer, Dr. Dorota Porazinska. The PowerPoint lectures, written transcripts for each lecture, instructive and educational videos, a virtual microscope for exploring nematode morphology (developed by Drs. Jim Baldwin and Paul De Ley), and readings are organized onto six CD-ROMs that are checked out to students during the first week of classes. In accordance with the copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) none of the materials in the class CDs can be “used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research”. The textbook for the course is Carl Zimmer’s “Parasite Rex: Inside the bizarre world of nature’s most dangerous creatures” which is checked out to students along with the CDs. These CDs and the book must be returned at the end of the class in order to receive a final grade.

Homework (Quizzes), a mid-term and final exam, additional readings, discussions, correspondence, and project submission occur via the UF E-learning system (WEBCT) <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>. There are open book quizzes for each major lecture section, unless otherwise noted.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of this course you will be familiar with the fundamentals of nematology. You will discover what nematodes are, how they look, how they function, where they live, and the important roles that they play in our world. This class will pique your curiosity about nematodes and prepare you for advanced nematology courses or classes in allied fields such as entomology, plant pathology, parasitology, or zoology.

WHY TAKE THIS COURSE

Nematodes are the most numerous multicellular animals on earth. They are present everywhere ranging from the coldest deserts in Antarctica to the tallest mountains and deepest ocean sediments. They are incredibly diverse. For instance, a handful of soil can contain hundreds of species of nematodes. Some nematodes play a role in ecosystem processes like decomposition, nutrient mineralization, or plant parasitism. Many are parasites of most species of invertebrate and vertebrate animals, including humans. In other words, nematodes are everywhere! Find out more about the worms that you tread upon every day.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Date	Activity	Assignment
1-2	Jan 4 & 11 2010	Lecture 1. Introduction to invertebrates	Quiz 1
3	Jan 18 2010	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Lecture 1 continued)	Quiz 1 (continued)
4	Jan 25 2010	Lecture 2. Nematode Ecology	Quiz 2
5	Feb 01 2010	Lecture 3. Nematode Morphology & Function (1)	Quiz 3
6	Feb 08 2010	Lecture 4. Nematode Morphology & Function (2)	Quiz 4
7	Feb 15 2010	Lecture 5. Nematode Morphology & Function (3)	Quiz 5
8	Feb 22 2010	Lecture 6. History & Nematode Survival	Quiz 6
9	March 01 2010	MIDTERM EXAM Lecture 7. Classification	MIDTERM Start Quiz 7
10	March 08 2010	Spring Break (no class) Lecture 8. Nematode Symbiotic Associations	
11	March 15 2010	Finish Lectures 7 & 8	Finish Quiz 7 (no quiz for Lecture 8)
12	March 22 2010	Lecture 9. Nematode Associates/Parasites of Invertebrates	Quiz 8
13	March 29 2010	Lecture 10. Nematode Parasites of Vertebrates	Quiz 9
14	April 05 2010	Lecture 11. Nematode Plant Parasites	Quiz 10
15	April 12 2010	Lecture 12 Control of Nematode Plant Parasites	Quiz 11
16	April 19 2010	Lecture 13 <i>Caenorhabditis</i> and the Nobel Prize	Project due
17	April 26 2010	FINAL EXAM	

GATORLINK ACCOUNT

You are required to have a Gatorlink computer account through the university (a free service to the University of Florida students). Using this account you will be able to access the World Wide Web from home or school and thus access the UF E-learning system (WEBCT) component of this course at <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>.

GRADING NEM 5002

Assignment	% of Grade
Homework	40
Project	10
Midterm	25
Final	25

Scale	Grade
93-100%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-
59% or less	E

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

COMPUTER USE

Do not let the heavy use of the computer scare you away. Please check the UF computer requirement at <http://www.circa.ufl.edu/computer.htm> to make sure you have the necessary computer software and hardware.

On campus students will be also able to access the UF E-learning system <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/> from the computer lab (8 AM to 5 PM) of the Entomology and Nematology Department.

SOFTWARE USE

All faculty, staff and students of the University of Florida are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such

violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.

We, the members of the University of Florida, pledge to hold ourselves and peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.