



Social Insects

ENY 4455C

Spring (3 credits)

Social insects are among the most successful organisms on the planet... and also some of the most fascinating! In this course, we will examine the astounding **diversity of social behaviors** exhibited by insects, ranging from parental care and herding behavior to the complex supersocieties of ants, bees, wasps, and termites. We'll also explore the **evolutionary causes and consequences** of insect sociality, **current trends** in social insect research, and other special topics. Lab demos and field trips will allow students to gain **hands-on experience** observing and working with social insects. Through this course, students will gain a firm foundation in the **identification, evolution, and behavior** of the major social insect groups, and will be well-prepared for additional coursework in entomology, evolutionary biology, and animal behavior.

Catalog description: Provides an overview of social insect biology in the context of comparative social evolution. Topics include the diversity of social behaviors in insects, evolutionary origins of sociality, kin recognition, caste systems, communication in social groups, and impacts of social insects.

Tuesdays & Thursdays, Periods
3 - 4 (9:35am - 11:30am)

1031 Steinmetz Hall

Prerequisite: BSC 2005 or
2010 (or instructor permission)

Canvas: [ufl.instructure.com/
courses/XXXXXX](https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/XXXXXX)

Instructor Info:

Dr. Anthony Auletta

anthonyauletta@ufl.edu

(352) 273-3954

Office: 3102 Steinmetz Hall

Drop-In Hours: Mon, 4:00pm -
5:00pm & Wed, 12:00pm - 1:00pm
(or by appointment:

calendly.com/anthonyauletta)

Dr. Andrea Lucky

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(352) 273-3952

Office: 2108 Steinmetz Hall

Office Hours: By email appt.

Dr. Thomas Chouvinc

tomchouv@ufl.edu






(954) 577-6320

Office Hours: By email appt.



Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

-  **Identify** the major orders and families of social insects and other social arthropods.
-  **Compare** and **contrast** the diverse social behaviors exhibited by different insect groups, as well as the organization of different insect societies.
-  **Explain** how and why social behavior evolved in these insect lineages, including the genetic and physiological mechanisms underlying social behaviors, the selective pressures driving the evolution of sociality, and the benefits & costs of sociality.
-  **Apply** these principles of social insect biology to address problems in pest management, conservation, and other fields.
-  **Interpret** and **evaluate** primary scientific literature in the field of insect sociobiology, and effectively **communicate** those findings to their peers.

In working towards these goals, students will hopefully also foster a sense of curiosity and appreciation for social insects- including their diversity, impacts, and many fascinating, complex behaviors.



Teaching Assistants

We are fortunate to have an excellent **teaching assistant** joining us this semester; do not hesitate to contact your TA if you have any questions about the course:

[TA Name]

Teaching Assistant

Email: [\[email address\]](#)

Office Hours: By email appointment



Readings & Course Materials

Textbooks & Readings: The following book is **required** for this course. We will use it extensively throughout the semester, starting in Week 2- so make sure to purchase your copy by then! Due dates for textbook readings will be posted on Canvas; students are expected to complete these readings before the corresponding class session!

- o Rubenstein DR & Abbot P, eds. (2017). **Comparative Social Evolution**. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-1107647923.

Additional Readings & Videos: Other **required readings**, including selected articles from the primary literature, as well as required **pre-class videos** will be posted on Canvas. Students are expected to review these materials before the corresponding class session.

Computer Requirement: All students must have regular access to a **computer with a reliable internet connection** to access assignments and course materials on Canvas, as well as to create and print their specimen labels.



Communication & Conduct

Meeting Policy: If you need assistance with any aspect of the course, we encourage you to come to **drop-in office hours** (details on Page 1 of this syllabus). Alternatively, you can **schedule a 1-on-1 meeting** with any of the instructors. You can request a meeting with Dr. Auletta via Calendly (<http://calendly.com/anthonyauletta>) and with any of the other instructors via email. Outside of class and office hours, **email** is our preferred method of contact. We will do our best to respond to messages within 48 hours (not including weekends or holidays). As a courtesy, please check the syllabus and Canvas before reaching out; answers to many of your questions can be found there!

Canvas: Important announcements and updates will be regularly posted to the **course Canvas website**, so be sure to check Canvas frequently! To ensure that you do not miss anything, please ensure that your Canvas profile is set to receive notifications.

Email Accounts: It is UF policy that you use your **GatorLink account or Canvas** when emailing your instructors; we will not answer emails sent from other accounts (e.g., personal Gmail, etc).

Professional Conduct: All members of the class are expected to conduct themselves in a **professional and respectful manner** at all times. Please use appropriate etiquette when interacting with your peers and instructors, including during class, on Canvas, and via email. Students who behave disrespectfully or disruptively will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.



Projects, Assignments, & Exams

Quizzes: There will be several short **online quizzes** throughout the semester (see Canvas or the Course Schedule below for dates). These quizzes will be based on the required readings/videos and are designed to help you prepare for our discussions and other in-class activities. They may also include review questions from recent class sessions. At the end of the semester, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Exams: There will be two **in-class exams** in this course, which are designed to assess your mastery of the course content and your ability to synthesize and apply important concepts from the course. The dates of the exams are listed in the Course Schedule below and on Canvas.

Reflections: Throughout the semester, you will be asked to submit **brief written reflections** via Canvas. The goal of these assignments is to help you think deeply about and expand upon the course content, including the ideas shared by your peers and colleagues during our in-class discussions. The reflection questions will also help you practice for the exams.

Hot Topics Presentation: Students will work in small groups to give a **10-12 minute presentation** on a “hot topic” in the field of social insect biology. This assignment will allow you to explore a topic of interest in more depth and help you practice critical reading and communication skills. Detailed guidelines for the presentation (including deadlines) will be posted on Canvas and discussed later in the semester.

Extra Credit: Extra credit opportunities may be posted at the **instructors’ discretion only**. Any other extra work submitted in order to raise a grade will not be accepted and requests for additional extra credit will not be considered.

Submitting assignments: *All assignments must be submitted electronically via Canvas unless otherwise noted. Emailed or paper submissions for Canvas assignments will not be accepted. You are responsible for ensuring that all your work is uploaded correctly and completely by the deadline. Corrupted files will be treated as missing work (= 0 grade) until they are reuploaded correctly and late penalties will apply if your resubmission is past the deadline. So, please always double check your files right after you upload them! If you experience technical problems when submitting your work in Canvas, contact the UF Computing Help Desk for assistance: <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu>.*



Grading Policies

This course uses a points system for grading. The anticipated maximum that can be earned in the course is **580 points**, distributed as follows:

Quizzes: **100 pts (10 pts ea.)**

Exams: **200 pts (100 pts ea.)**

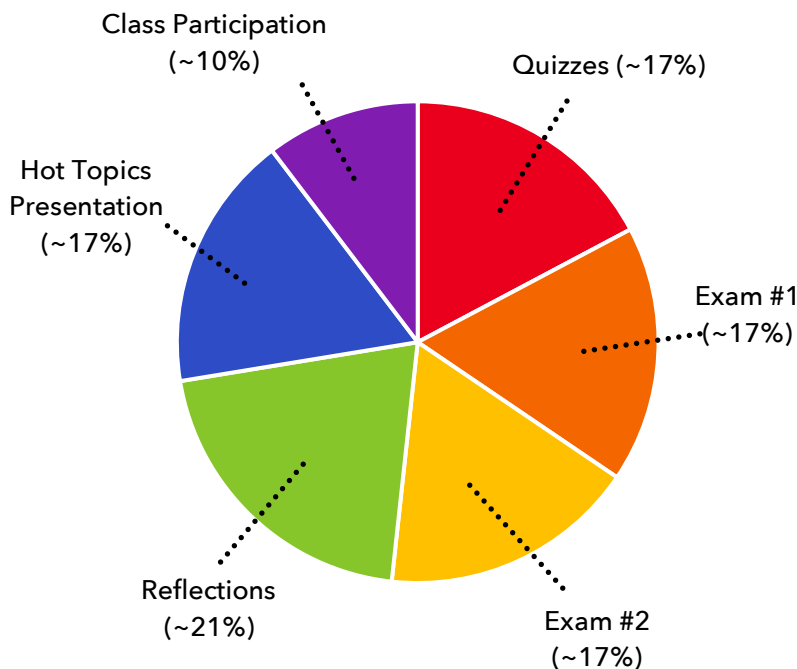
Reflections: **120 pts (15 pts ea.)**

Hot Topics Presentation: **100 pts**

Class Participation: **60 pts**

At the end of the semester, your total course grade will be converted to a letter grade using the scale below:

93 - 100% = A	73 - 76.9% = C
90 - 92.9% = A-	70 - 72.9% = C-
87 - 89.9% = B+	67 - 69.9% = D+
83 - 86.9% = B	63 - 66.9% = D
80 - 82.9% = B-	60 - 62.9% = D-
77 - 79.9% = C+	below 60% = E



Please note that the instructors do not round up grades– requests to do so will not be considered.

For current UF policies on assigning grade points, consult the following policy website:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Disputing a grade: *If you wish to dispute a grade for any exam/assignment, you must contact the instructors in writing after the assignment has been returned. In your message, you must include a specific explanation for why you think the grade is incorrect and how you think it should be changed. An instructor will then arrange a meeting with you to discuss the issue and determine whether or not the grade should be changed. The grade assigned following this meeting will be final.*



Attendance & Participation

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies>.

Due to the interactive nature of this course, attendance in class is *critically important*. The learning experience is greatest when everyone in the class contributes– if you are absent, you will not be able to share your insights during class or benefit from the insights of your peers and instructors.

Thus, all students are expected to **attend every class session on time** and **stay for the entire session**. Students are also expected to be **fully prepared for and engaged** in each session— this includes completing all required readings/videos, submitting all assignments on time, paying attention during class, and actively participating in all class activities. Participation in our class sessions is worth **60 points (≈10% of your final course grade)**. Your participation grade will be calculated based on the percentage of class sessions in which you are present for the entire time and engage in the day's in-class activities. Students who miss more than 30% of class sessions will automatically earn an E (= failing grade) in the course.

Since this is a **face-to-face course**, students will not have the option to join remotely via Zoom under any circumstances. The instructors will not record class sessions.

If you need to miss a class due to an **excusable absence**, you must let the instructors know **as far in advance as possible** to discuss arrangements for making up missed work. A list of excusable reasons for missing class can be found on the Attendance Policy page linked above. In the case of an unforeseen emergency, you should contact the instructors as soon as you can afterwards. The instructors may require you to submit **appropriate documentation** of your absence before you are allowed to make up missed work; you can submit your documentation via the official **Instructor Notification portal**: <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications>.

If you are absent for any other reason or fail to notify the instructors of your absence in a timely manner, you will earn a 0 for any work that you missed and make-up work will not be accepted. Please note that personal travel (e.g., a vacation) is *not* considered an excusable absence, and thus students will earn a 0 for any work missed due to personal travel during the course.

If you do miss a class meeting, you should contact a classmate for notes from that session; the instructors will not provide notes. If the content is still unclear after you review your classmate's notes (and the required readings/other materials on Canvas), please don't hesitate to come to office hours or schedule a meeting with an instructor. We ask that you please come to that meeting prepared to discuss the specific questions you have.



Late Work & Make-Up Assignments / Exams

Policy on Late Work: All assignments are due **by the date and time indicated on the assignment page in Canvas**. If you submit an assignment after this deadline, 20% of its total point value will be deducted for every day that it is late. We understand that sometimes unexpected situations arise, and so every student will have **3 late work passes** that they can use to submit an assignment up to 24 hours after the deadline with no penalty and no questions asked. These passes will be applied to the first three assignments that you turn in late during the course. Please note that credit cannot be earned for any assignment after it has been graded and returned to the rest of the class. Late work will also not be accepted after the deadline for the final assignment in the course.

There are several special assignments that will not be accepted late; you cannot use a late work pass on those assignments and will earn a 0 if they are submitted after the deadline. These assignments are: (1) the **exams**, which must be completed during class on their scheduled dates,

and (2) your Hot Topics presentation, which also must be completed during class on your assigned date. Late submissions for **quizzes** will only be accepted up until the start of the associated class session; this is because the quizzes are intended to prepare you for our in-class activities, and there is no educational value in submitting such assignments *after* that class session is over.

Extensions: Extensions on assignments will be considered on a *case-by-case basis* (and granted at the instructor's discretion) **only in the event of unforeseen emergencies**. In such a case, you must contact the instructors as soon as possible to discuss your situation. The instructors may require you to submit **appropriate documentation** of your situation (which you can do via the Dean of Students' **Instructor Notification portal**: <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications>). No extensions will be granted for students who miss a deadline for any other reason or who do not reach out to the instructors in a timely manner.

A note about deadlines: *Remember, the due date doesn't have to be the "do" date! In other words, we encourage you to work on your assignments in advance- don't wait until right before the deadline to submit your work! Last-minute computer problems or other non-emergency situations that arise right before the deadline are not valid reasons for requesting an extension; such requests will not be considered and late penalties will be applied to your work if it is not submitted before the deadline.*

Make-Up Assignments: If you miss class due to an excusable absence, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss options for making up the work that you missed. As noted above, the instructors may ask for **valid documentation** of your absence before allowing make-up work to be submitted. Make-up assignments will *not* be provided for students who miss class for unexcused absences or who fail to make arrangements with the instructor in a reasonable time frame.

Make-Up Exams: The exams must be taken on their **scheduled dates and times** (as indicated in the Course Schedule below). A make-up exam (or incomplete course grade) will *only* be offered to students who miss the exam due to an **unforeseen emergency**. In this case, you must contact the instructors as soon as possible and also submit **appropriate documentation** of your emergency (e.g., through the official **Instructor Notification portal** <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications>). The make-up exam will be similar in format to the original, but will consist of different questions. If you miss an exam for any other reason, you will not be permitted to make it up and will earn a grade of 0 for it. Remember, personal travel/vacations are not excusable absences, so students will **not** be allowed take a make-up exam to accommodate end-of-semester travel plans.



Course Schedule

Below is a tentative* schedule of topics & major assignments for the semester. Presentation dates for the Hot Topics assignment will be assigned after the semester begins and posted on Canvas. Readings/videos for each session will also be posted on Canvas and must be completed before

the start of class. All assignments must be submitted via Canvas by 11:59pm on the due date (unless indicated otherwise).

Week	Dates	Topics	Major Assignments
1	Jan. 9 (Tu) Jan. 11 (Th)	Introduction to the Course & Sociality Overview of Social Insect Diversity	
2	Jan. 16 (Tu) Jan. 18 (Th)	Phylogenies and Social Evolution Categorizing Sociality	Quiz #1 (1/15) Reflection #1 (1/19)
3	Jan. 23 (T) Jan. 25 (Th)	Parental Care in Arthropods "Subsocial" Insects	Quiz #2 (1/22) Reflection #2 (1/26)
4	Jan. 30 (Tu) Feb. 1 (Th)	Resource Defenders & Herding Societies Introduction to Eusociality	Quiz #2 (1/29)
5	Feb. 6 (Tu) Feb. 8 (Th)	Evolution of Eusociality in Hymenoptera	Reflection #3 (2/9)
6	Feb. 13 (Tu) Feb. 15 (Th)	Evolution of Eusociality in Termites	Quiz #4 (2/12)
7	Feb. 20 (Tu) Feb. 22 (Th)	Evolution of Sociality in Spiders Kin & Nestmate Recognition	Quiz #5 (2/19) Reflection #4 (2/23)
8	Feb. 27 (Tu) Feb. 29 (Th)	Exam #1 Field Trip to the UF Honeybee Research & Extension Lab (HRBEL)	
9	Mar. 5 (Tu) Mar. 7 (Th)	Caste Systems & Caste Determination Division of Labor & Polyethism	Quiz #6 (3/4) Reflection #5 (3/8)
10	Mar. 12 (Tu) Mar. 14 (Th)	Spring Break- NO CLASS!	
11	Mar. 19 (Tu) Mar. 21 (Th)	Social Structures & Policing Communication in Social Groups	Quiz #7 (3/18)
12	Mar. 26 (Tu) Mar. 28 (Th)	Observing Social Insect Behavior: Field Trip to the UF Natural Area Teaching Lab (NATL) Ecological Impacts of Social Insects	Quiz #8 (3/25) Reflection #6 (3/29)
13	Apr. 2 (Tu) Apr. 4 (Th)	Social Insect Pests & Invaders Mutualisms in Social Systems	Quiz #9 (4/1) Reflection #7 (4/5)
14	Apr. 9 (Tu) Apr. 11 (Th)	Social Parasitism Social Immunity	Quiz #10 (4/8)
15	Apr. 16 (Tu) Apr. 18 (Th)	Comparing Insect & Primate Societies Applications of Social Insect Biology Course Wrap-Up & Reflections	Quiz #11 (4/15) Reflection #8 (4/17)

* Although we will do our best to adhere to this schedule, it may be adjusted during the semester to accommodate opportunities, disruptions, and other circumstances. These changes will be communicated clearly via Canvas.



List of Important Dates

Key dates to remember are below– be sure to add them to your calendar now! Due dates for other assignments are listed in the Course Schedule above and/or on Canvas.

- **February 27:** Exam #1 (in class)
- **March 9 -16:** Spring Break (no class)
- **April 23:** Exam #2 (in class)



Field Trip Expectations

There will be several **required field trips** during the semester, which will occur during class time and be within walking distance of our classroom. Dates for the major field trips are listed in this syllabus. Inclement weather may force us to reschedule/cancel some of these excursions; those changes will be clearly communicated via Canvas. Additional smaller field activities may be organized during the semester as opportunities arise; these will also be announced in class and/or on Canvas.

This means that we will be spending some class time outdoors, including on days when it may be hot and humid. On days when field activities are scheduled, you should come to class prepared to spend time outside in these conditions. This includes wearing comfortable, closed-toed shoes and clothes that are suitable for the outdoors. You are also encouraged to bring a hat (to shade yourself from the sun), sunscreen, bug spray, and a water bottle.

If you have concerns about working in the field, please contact the instructors at the beginning of the semester. We are happy to discuss reasonable alternatives for students who have limited physical mobility or other conditions that may impact their ability to participate in these field trips.



Laboratory Guidelines

During our lab activities, everyone is required to follow all **lab safety procedures** and other **lab guidelines** provided by the instructors. These procedures will be clearly communicated via Canvas and/or during class. Some lab activities may require you to handle specimens (alive and preserved) and/or lab equipment (e.g., microscopes). Please treat these specimens and instruments with care! Always ask an instructor if you are unsure about how to use an instrument.

Students who do not adhere to these guidelines will be dismissed from class and considered absent for that day, and may also be reported to the Dean of Students Office for misconduct. You may also be liable for any damages to lab equipment that result from your negligence or misuse.



Policy on Academic Honesty & Integrity

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the **Honor Code**, which includes the following pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g., assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

Instructors' note: Any action that *subverts the learning goals* of the course (or a particular course activity) will be treated as academic misconduct and reported to the Dean of Students Office. This includes- but is not limited to- cheating or assisting others in cheating, plagiarism (i.e., misrepresenting someone else's work as your own, whether it is copied directly or paraphrased), self-plagiarism (i.e., copying/reusing work that you have submitted previously), using ChatGPT or other AI tools for assignments without instructor permission, collaborating with others when it is not permitted, fabricating data, lying to an instructor, and bad faith attempts to undermine the intent of a learning activity. In addition to being reported to the Dean of Students Office, a student will earn a grade of 0 on any assignment that is plagiarized or that otherwise violates these academic honesty policies. This 0 grade is irreversible- it cannot be dropped and the assignment cannot be resubmitted for a different grade. After the first offense, any subsequent incidents of plagiarism or academic honesty will result in an automatic E (= failing grade) in the course. Please see the **Guide to Academic Honesty & Integrity on Canvas** for more information.



Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The **Disability Resource Center** coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations

within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services, and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Disability Resource Center

001 Reid Hall

(352) 392-8565 ♦ <https://disability.ufl.edu>

Instructors' note: *We want you to succeed in this course! To ensure your accommodations are in place when you need them, please be sure to have your DRC accommodation letter sent to us as early as possible- ideally at the beginning of the semester.*



Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. **The Counseling & Wellness Center** provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance:

University Counseling & Wellness Center

Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library, Wellness Coaching

3190 Radio Road ♦ (352) 392-1575 ♦ <https://counseling.ufl.edu>

Other campus resources include:

U Matter, We Care: <http://umatter.ufl.edu>

Academic Resources (includes tutoring services, study skills workshops, 1-on-1 consultations, and more): <https://academicresources.clas.ufl.edu>

Career Connections Center: Reitz Student Union- First Floor; (352) 392-1601;
<http://career.ufl.edu>

Student Success Initiative: <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>

Student Complaints: Complaints regarding on-campus courses may be filed at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-studentconduct-code>. For online courses, please see <https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/student-complaint-process>.

Policy on Recording Class Sessions

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are: (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and an instructor during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Use of Electronic Devices

You may use personal electronic devices such as laptops or tablets in class, unless otherwise noted by an instructor. However, it is your responsibility to make sure that you use your devices in a **professional and courteous manner**. This includes:

- Limiting device use only to activities that are **directly related to your learning of course material**, such as taking notes or creating labels for your specimens. Using your devices for any other purpose is not allowed in the classroom; doing so is disrespectful to the instructor, distracting to your fellow students, and robs you of a quality learning experience.
- Keeping your devices **muted at all times** to prevent disrupting others around you.
- Quietly stepping out into the hall if you must take a call or contact someone. We understand that emergencies can happen and will not prevent you from attending to them, but we also ask that you try to minimize disruptions to your peers.

If your device use is disruptive or inappropriate, you will be asked to put away your device. Students who repeatedly violate this policy will no longer be allowed to use devices in class and may be reported to the Dean of Students Office.



Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university 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.



Course Evaluations

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via **GatorEvals**. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results>.

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It is your responsibility to ensure that you fully understand the policies outlined in this syllabus as well as the policies of the university as they relate to this course. By remaining enrolled in this course, you agree that you have read and understood all of these policies and that you will be held accountable to them.

At their discretion, the instructors may change aspects of the course during the semester to accommodate new opportunities, unforeseen disruptions, or other circumstances. These changes will be communicated clearly in class and through Canvas. The current version of the syllabus will always be available on our course's Canvas website. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are following the most recent version of the syllabus.

If you have any questions, please contact the instructors as soon as possible (preferably at the beginning of the course)!

Cover Photo: Nasute termite (*Nasutitermes aquilinus*) soldiers and workers
by Guilherme Ide ([flickr.com/photos/wikitermes/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/wikitermes/))