

ENY 6942 - Insect Diagnostics

Fall 2023

Course Description

The identification of pests, emphasizing species-level determination, practical diagnostic techniques, and informational resources available to the diagnostician.

Prerequisites

A course in insect identification, preferably ENY 4161 (Insect Classification) and ENY 5611 (Immature Insects).

Course Goals and Objectives

The goal of this course is to improve your knowledge of pest identification, particularly species-level determination within important orders, families, and pest complexes. This course also is intended to make you aware of many of the sources of information and other techniques that will aid you in identification. You also will be exposed to the types of inquiries and samples submitted to the insect diagnostic laboratory, and learn how diagnosticians respond to such samples.

Grades and Grade Points

The course grade is based on 2 exams (50% of final grade) and assignments and quizzes (50% of final grade). The final grade will be assigned as:

		A	92 - 100	A-	90 - 91
B+	88 - 89	B	82 - 87	B-	80 - 81
C+	78 - 79	C	72 - 77	C-	70 - 71
D+	68 - 69	D	62 - 67	D-	60 - 61
E	< 59				

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Exams

The exams are open book, so you can use your notes and handouts, but not other people. Unknowns will be set out on Monday morning and can be worked on anytime that the lab is open during that week. Exams must be turned in by noon on the Friday of that week.

Assignments

Several insect identification assignments will be given during the semester. Microscopes and other resources will be available in the Photography Lab (room 2003 in the Ent/Nem Building), or arrangements can be made for access to one of the teaching labs.

Textbook

None. You will be provided with diagnostic materials and lists of sources of information.

Class Attendance

Students are expected, but not required, to attend.

Absences and Make-Up Work

Exams and student presentations are made on a continuing basis, so absence of up to a week imposes no hardship. Prolonged absences will be accommodated by mutual agreement, but all work must be completed by the date of the scheduled final examination.

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/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

INSECT DIAGNOSTICS (ENY 6942)
Thursday, Periods 7 - 9 (1:55pm - 4:55pm)
Fall Semester, 2023

Day	Topics and Speakers
1. August 24	Introduction; Course goals and procedures Identification of stored product pests Lyle Buss
2. August 31	Identification of caterpillars Lyle Buss
3. September 7	Identification of stink bugs Joe Eger
4. September 14	Identification of scale insects Erin Powell, Lily Deeter
5. September 21	Slide mounting Lily Deeter and Jude Gasparro-Brewer
6. September 28	Identification of mealybugs Erin Powell, Lily Deeter
7. October 5	Identification of fruit flies (Tephritidae) Erick Rodriguez
Oct. 9-13	Exam 1 on weeks 1-7 - due by 4:00 pm on Fri., Oct. 13
8. October 12	Identification of aphids Susan Halbert, Catherine White
9. October 19	No class - field trip in Dr. Hodges' class
10. October 26	Identification of snails and slugs John Slapcinsky
11. November 2	Identification of thrips Felipe Soto-Adames
12. November 9	No class - field trip in Dr. Hodges' class
13. November 16	Identification of ants David Oi
14. November 23	Thanksgiving - no class
15. November 30	Identification of mites Sam Bolton
Dec. 11-15	Final exam on weeks 8-15 - due by 4:00 pm on Fri. Dec. 15

Coordinator: Lyle Buss
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Phone: (352) 273-3933
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Office hours: Contact me by e-mail or phone to set up an appointment.

POLICY STATEMENTS: ACADEMIC HONESTY, PLAGIARISM, SOFTWARE USE, UF COUNSELING SERVICES, SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

In 1995, the UF student body enacted a new honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by the students.

In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of this honor code.

The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

The University requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior.

Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean or Student Honor Court.

It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project, in writing by the instructor. This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

[Click here to read the Conduct Code.](#)

PLAGIARISM INFORMATION FROM THE ENTOMOLOGY AND NEMATOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Plagiarism is a serious problem in academia today, especially with the ease of obtaining information from the World Wide Web. Plagiarism is defined as representing the words or ideas of another person as one's own, without attribution to the source. All words and ideas must be attributed to a source unless they are considered common knowledge (i.e., widely known by many people and found in many different sources). There are many kinds of plagiarism, as you will read on the Guide to Plagiarism website referenced below. Plagiarism is unethical, unacceptable in science, and prohibited by the UF Student Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/honor-code/>). The consequences for plagiarism while at the University of Florida range from receiving a grade of zero for the plagiarized assignment or a failing grade for the course, to, for repeated offenses, expulsion from the university. Plagiarism after graduate training calls into question one's scientific integrity and can lead to banning of publication in journals and the loss of jobs/careers.

In some countries, it is an acceptable practice to write in a manner that faculty members at the University of

Florida consider to be plagiarism. Students studying in our university and with plans to publish their research in the English language need to know what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. Students who plagiarize will be caught and consequences will be applied. Many faculty in our department check all written assignments using an anti-plagiarism software called Turnitin®. Please understand that our purpose in bringing to your attention the matter of plagiarism is to help train you to be ethical scientists, not to impugn your character.

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.

CAMPUS HELPING RESOURCES: Students experiencing crisis or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal or lacking clear career and academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling Center is located at 301 Peabody Hall (next to Criser Hall). Student Mental Health is located on the second floor of the Student Health Services in the Infirmary.

1. *University Counseling Center*, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575; personal and career counseling:
<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

2. *Student Mental Health*, Rm. 245 Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling:
<http://shcc.ufl.edu/>

- Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)
- Center for Sexual Assault/Abuse Recovery & Education (CARE)
- Eating Disorders Program
- Employee Assistance Program
- Suicide Prevention Program

3. *Career Resource Center*, DR-100 J.W.Reitz Union, 392-1602, career development assistance and counseling.

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. 0001 Reid Hall, 392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>