

Ent. 4400/6400
Insect Behavior
Spring 2006

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LECTURE SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Jan. 13	Introduction; levels of explanation
Jan. 17	Parental care/presocial insects
Jan. 24	Eusociality/kin selection
Jan. 31	Antipredator behavior/mimicry
Feb. 7	Sexual selection theory
Feb. 14	Insect mating systems; alternative strategies; female choice
Feb. 21	Coevolution/ Pollination
Feb. 28	Mid Term exam
March 6	no class – Florida trip
March 20	Insect-plant interactions
March 27	Communication - chemical
April 4	Communication - auditory, & honeybees
April 11	Learning - Instinct; habitat selection
April 18	Behavioral ecology/optimal theory
April 25	Spatial adjustment, orientation/neural integration
May 3	FINAL EXAMINATION

Grades: based on two exams (50%), research project (25%), and laboratory (25%). No Text ordered; however, a reference copy of Matthews, R. W. and J. R. Matthews. 1978. *Insect Behavior*. John Wiley, New York will be available. Additional readings from Scientific American, American Scientist, and primary literature will be assigned.

LABORATORY SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Jan. 11	No Lab
Jan. 23	Introduction/ Sampling methods in behavior
Jan. 30	Cockroach grooming
Feb. 6	Territoriality & dominance in crickets
Feb. 13	Courtship in <i>Melittobia</i> parasitic wasps
Feb. 20	Research Project Time
Feb. 27	Bean beetle oviposition
Mar. 5-6	USDA lab tours Tifton, GA & Gainesville, FL
Mar. 20	Carpenter bee territoriality
Mar. 27	Research Project Time
April 3	Insect Zoo
April 10	Fly feeding behavior
April 17	Research Project Time
April 24	Oral project presentations; written project paper due

Laboratory assignments should be word processed, formatted for Annals of the Entomological Society of America, with use of graphic and statistical software where appropriate. Honing of written communication skills is an important course objective, so extensive feedback will be given with the opportunity to resubmit revised reports before a final grade is assigned.

Research project will involve some aspect of the behavior of *Melittobia* parasitic wasps to be approved by instructor.