

Invertebrate Zoology BIOL-Z 374, Autumn 2011



Instructor:

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(preferred)

Department of Biology
Office: Jordan Hall 015
Office hours: W, 2-4 pm
and by appointment

Course Details:

Time: MWF, 11:15 - 12:05
Place: Jordan Hall A106

Webpage: www.indiana.edu/~halllab/Inverts/Inverts.htm

Course Description: Inverts comprise > 99% of all animals on Earth and are remarkably diverse. With this almost incomprehensible diversity as a backdrop, we will consider how invertebrates have managed to solve life's major problems (surviving, growing and reproducing in benign-to-hostile environments), organized around a few simple themes and guided by evolution and comparative physiology. We will also survey diversity of major invertebrate groups.

Goals and Objectives: By the end of the course, students will be able to *critically think* about inverts:
Retain and comprehend key differences among invertebrate phyla
Apply that information to new contexts
Analyze and synthesize evolutionary trends in physiological, anatomical, and ecological developments of invertebrates.

Textbook: Ruppert, Fox, and Barnes. 2006. Invertebrate Zoology, 7th ed. Brooks/Cole (Highly recommended, not mandatory, but I draw from it a lot)

Handouts: Powerpoint files with diagrams and pictures that I will be showing and lecture note templates will be posted on OnCourse at least 24 hours prior to lecture. It is highly recommended that you bring printouts of them (perhaps the figures in 'handout' form) to class. *My lecture notes will not be available for student use.*

Grading: Ideally, we could just have fun and learn about invertebrate biology and diversity. Unfortunately, to evaluate your progress in learning and critical thinking about invertebrates, I have to grade you. Here is the plan:

<u>Point</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Points</u>
	Midterm Exam #1	100
<u>Distribution:</u>	Midterm Exam #2	100
	Final Exam	200
	Quizzes, 7 @ 20 pts ea	140
	Assignment, 1 @ 15 pt	15
	Insta-quizzes, 15 @ 5 points each	75
	<u>Class participation</u>	<u>50</u>
	Grant Total:	680

Exams cover material in lecture and reading that was discussed in lecture. Questions will follow a mixed format (especially long and short essay [c. 3/4 of the exam], but some matching and short answer [c. 1/4 of the exam]).

Review sessions will be offered the evening or two before each exam (optional attendance, highly recommended).

Quizzes are scheduled and will follow major lectures on: invertebrate phylogeny (2), environment, bilats (2), intro to molluscs, intro to arthropods.

Assignments: There is one short assignment following Nematodes.

Insta-quizzes are unannounced and given in class. They test in-class comprehension, document attendance, and sometimes will be taken in groups.

Class participation: Since we will use discussion in class, it is important to participate. This grade arises from (A) attendance taken from insta-quizzes, and (B) your participation, graded on a 0-3 scale. The participation score is attendance x participation score.

Grad assignments: Assuming a grade distribution like that in the past, I will curve the class. The mean will be a B-/B, and grade levels will increase/decrease with each increment of the standard deviation (i.e., one SD above mean is an A-/A).

Other key aspects of grading:

(1). Make-up exams: No make-up exams ... unless you have more than three finals on the same day as the final exam in this class (which is 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Mon., December 12). If this situation applies to you, schedule a make-up with me before 2 November. Sorry, leaving early for Christmas break is not a reason to request a make-up exam.

(2). Regrades: I'm always happy to add back points that I mistakenly deleted (addition errors happen). If you disagree with my judgment on a question: look at the answer key for exams before requesting a regrade, then request a regrade.

Format: Requests must be made in writing – specify the suspicious question and tell me why you think that your answer was correct.

Timing: Requests must be made 1 week from the date that I returned your exam.

**Mutual
Expect-
ations:**

- I will:
- * state course objectives and guide you towards fulfilling them
 - * start class on time and end class on time
 - * answer your questions and accurately and promptly as I can (but I do not answer emails at odd hours, etc.)
 - * grade assignments fairly and issue grades promptly (usu. 1 wk)
 - * try to stay on schedule (but we may update the syllabus)
- You will:
- * arrive to class on time and fulfill course requirements
 - * complete your own assignments and act in an honorable manner
 - * respect your fellow students, especially during discussions
 - * seek help from me for academic problems ASAP
 - * participate in discussion of materials
 - * refrain from using cell phones, etc. (no calls, no texts during class)

Important Policies:

1. Academic Dishonesty: So sad to have to bring this up...

Do not cheat in this class. Cheaters will face the strongest penalties that the *IU Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct* will allow me to pursue, which means even failing the course (permanent F on your records) and additional sanctions imposed by the Dean of Students.

See this link for more info.: <http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/index.shtml>

2. Classroom Civility (esp. electronic devices): Please turn off your cell phones before class starts and do not use electronic devices, such as MP3 players, laptops unless you take notes on it, etc.. If any device distracts me, you, or fellow students, it must be turned off.

3. Disabilities: Please let me know if you have any physical or learning disabilities. I will absolutely try my best to work with you on these.

4. Attendance: Of course attendance is highly recommended. The “insta-quizzes” provide me with a snapshot of attendance over the course of the semester. Infrequent attendance can result in a letter grade or lower drop in your performance.

5. Withdrawals and incompletes: “*Incompletes (I)*” are only granted to students who are passing the course but become unable to finish the course on time for a medical reason or equivalent problem. (University guidelines).

Withdrawal deadlines: Wednesday, 26 October (for grade of “W”)

Just a reminder: please take the time to monitor your enrollment status, you are ultimately responsible for it.

6. Revision of syllabus (disclaimer): Although the timing of exams will not change, I may change the order/timing of topics discussed. I may also add suggested reading from time to time.