

**INSECTS AND PLANTS
(HONORS)
Spring 2025**

Credits: 1

Course number: IDH 2930, section 3115, class number 25879

Schedule: Thursday, period 3 (9:35 am – 10:25 am)

Location: Room 1027 Entomology Department (see attached map)

Instructors

Dr. Andrei Sourakov

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Office hours

By appointment

Course description

Insects and plants are intimately connected and have been so for 300 million years. During this time, the evolutionary arms-race between the two groups has produced examples of co-existence more fantastic than any science-fiction. During this course, we will use the textbook to stimulate more in- depth discussions of diverse topics linked to insect-plant interactions, including co-evolution, chemical ecology, predator-prey relationships, mimicry, natural selection, camouflage, host-mediated speciation and adaptive radiation. In addition to lectures and discussion sessions, students will have a chance to visit the collections of the Florida Museum of Natural History and of the Division of Plant Industry, in addition to the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory located behind the Florida Museum of Natural History, and the Chemical Ecology Laboratory of USDA. Students will gain an appreciation and understanding of the evolution of two of the most important groups of organisms on the planet, in addition to developing their ability to think critically about scientific research. This course is intended to stimulate interest in the natural world, in which insects and plants form the great majority of species, and there are no prerequisites beyond a fascination in the diversity of life.

Objectives and basis for grading

Lectures

Short lectures during each class will provide an introduction and describe classical and contemporary research relevant to each week's topic. Students will be introduced to a broad variety of research methods and will learn common empirical patterns, processes and theories proposed to explain them. Additional articles from the primary scientific literature may be suggested or required as background reading in preparation for each lecture.

Class discussion

Students will read sections of the course textbook in preparation for discussion each class. Students are not expected to fully understand the set literature, but are expected to come to class with at least two questions prepared about aspects of the literature reviewed, including concepts that they do not understand or would like to discuss further. All students are expected to contribute to open discussions and the overall grade will reflect this contribution.

CLASS READING ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1

Jan 16

Introduction

WEEK 2

Jan 23

CLASS DISCUSSION: *Insects and Plants*: pp. xix-xxv, 1-18

WEEK 3

Jan 30

CLASS DISCUSSION: *Insects and Plants*: pp. 19-37

WEEK 4

Feb 6

CLASS DISCUSSION: *Insects and Plants*: pp. 38-54

WEEK 5

Feb 13

CLASS DISCUSSION: *Insects and Plants*: pp. 55-69

WEEK 6

Feb 20

CLASS DISCUSSION: *Insects and Plants*: pp. 70-85

WEEK 7

Feb 27

CLASS DISCUSSION: *Insects and Plants*: pp. 86-105

WEEK 8

Mar 6

CLASS DISCUSSION: *Insects and Plants*: pp. 106-112

WEEK 9

Mar 13

CLASS DISCUSSION: *Insects and Plants*: pp. 113-126

WEEK 10 – SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

Mar 20

Reading assignment: *Insects and Plants*: pp. 127-141

WEEK 11

Mar 27

CLASS DISCUSSION: *Insects and Plants*: pp. 127-155

WEEK 12

Apr 3

CLASS DISCUSSION: *Insects and Plants*: pp. 156-169

WEEK 13

Apr 10

CLASS DISCUSSION: *Insects and Plants*: pp. 170-185

WEEK 14

Apr 17

CLASS DISCUSSION: *Insects and Plants*: pp. 187-205

Grading

% by activity

Activity	% of final grade
Attendance	50
Class discussions	50

A = 95-100%

A- = 90-94%

B = 85-89%

B- = 80-84%

C = 75-79%

C- = 70-74%

D = 65-69%

D- = 60-64%

E = <60%

Class attendance, work and exam policies

Students are expected to attend all classes unless there are valid reasons for absence, and part of the grade will reflect class attendance. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the “Get Started With the DRC” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site: <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Textbook will be provided to students on loan hence not required

Edward S. Ross (2014). *Insects and Plants. A Living Theater*. Mariposa Press. 214pp.

Current UF grading policies

See: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Student feedback on course

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.ua.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.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic support

- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk (<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center (<https://career.ufl.edu/>): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- Library Support (<https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask/>): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- Teaching Center (<https://umatter.ufl.edu/office/teaching-center/>): 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- Writing Studio (<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal webpage (<https://www.ombuds.ufl.edu/complaint-portal/>) for more information.
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage (<https://em.ufl.edu/complaint/>) for more information.
- Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519
- Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu
- Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>

Location of Entomology and Nematology Department

