Ihanktonwan Community College

Selected Topics in Biology BI 485

Independent Study Class Fall 2017

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**Course Description**

This advanced biology independent study course is designed for students to study the world of entomology. This is a study of the orders and most important families of insects; order-level morphology and family-level natural history. A basic understanding of entomology is useful to students in a variety of biological fields.  Insects are important model organisms, have great agricultural importance, have great medical importance, and provide an accessible illustration of the complexities of non-vertebrates.

**Class Objectives**

-analyze variety of invertebrates found our local area

-collect and observe invertebrates in our local area

-collect information about the habitat and characteristics of collect invertebrates

-present collection of invertebrates with information in an organized presentation

**Books**

National Audobon Society of North American Field Guide-Butterflies

National Audobon Society of North America Field Guide-Insects and Spiders

**Teaching Philosophy/teaching methods**

I believe the fundamental goal of teaching is to foster learning. Learning takes place in many different circumstances and contexts. Although everyone is capable of learning, a student's desire to learn is a vital pre-condition to effectively mastering new concepts and skills. Humans have multiple learning styles: some learn best in lecture atmospheres, some are motivated by discussion, and others absorb best when they read and reflect on what they have read. The classroom setting can encourage or inhibit learning depending on the dominant learning style of each student. Accommodating different learning styles creates an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. Students take many of their learning habits from the instructor. If the instructor doesn't show interest in the subject and a passion for learning, students are less likely to put forth the effort to learn in that class. An instructor must convince students of his or her knowledge and expertise before they will show a willingness to learn.

My job, as an instructor, is to create an atmosphere that fosters learning. I am an instructor because I have a passion for guiding students through the learning process, in addition to a passion for the material I present. One of the best ways to foster learning is to demonstrate those feelings to my students. I encourage learning by creating a relaxed environment for students, stimulating conversation about concepts being presented and organizing material in a way that makes it easiest to understand. I treat subject matter as interconnected, emphasizing that everything students are learning fits together into a holistic understanding of the world, from which they develop their personal worldview. I believe this is best accomplished when I am demonstrating general research methodology. I demonstrate that learning how to find information applies to all areas of life and I use topics and examples that are multidisciplinary. Finally, I believe that respect for my students is one of the most important things I can show - not only to encourage their openness to the material I am presenting, but also to inspire them to respect each other and all other humans.

One of the most important concepts I hope to impart to students is that learning is a process that never ends. For me, the learning process includes improving myself professionally. I want to read more about formal learning theories to expand my understanding of how learning takes place. As I continue to instruct classes, I also aim to enhance my ease and confidence in front of classrooms and audiences. Finally, I plan to experiment with different methods and means of presenting information to classes in order to improve the learning atmosphere I create for students.

**Assignment**

-collect 30 species of invertebrates

**(10 points each organism- 300 points for course)**

-identify each species with scientific name

-identify habitat, characteristics, and any important contribution organism makes to its habitat

-three meetings in September, October, and November

**(Meetings 50 points each)**

**Total Points = 450 points**

Grading Scale

100-90 A 89-80 B 79-70 C 69-60 D Below 60 F

**Presentation-Due Finals Week**

1.preserve each specimen in an organized manner (for example mount insects on boards or binders)

2.present the collect information with each specimen

3.points will be deducted if incorrect species identification is detected

We will meet at least three times throughout the semester to monitor progress-**YOU** are responsible to arrange these times in September, October, and November. We will meet for the last time during finals week to go over your final project.

**DO NOT WAIT TO COLLECT SPECIMENTS AS WE MOVE FORWARD TOWARD WINTER AS THE NUMBER OF SPECIMENS AVAILABLE WILL DECREASE WITH COLDER TEMPERATURES**

**Student Responsibilities**

1. **Attendance**-The attendance policies stated in the Ihanktonwan Community College Student Handbook will be strictly adhered to. **Successful completion** of this course is contingent upon attendance, participation, and completion of all course requirements, complied in a portfolio in a timely matter.
2. **Accountability**-All readings, presentations, and assignments must be ready when due in order to earn the maximum number of points allowed. The instructor reserves the right to deduct points for late work. After one week, a failing grade for that assignment may be given. Work handed in must be professional quality. A final grade will not be given unless a completed portfolio is handed in**. MOST IMPORTANTLY STUDENTS MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN LEARNING**
3. **CELL PHONE POLICY** Cell phone usage disrupts the learning process. All cell phones must be turned off and put away during class time. You may check your messages and/or make necessary phone calls during class breaks or after class is over. Thanks for your cooperation.
4. **DISABILITY STATEMENT** ICC strives to assist students with declared disabilities that may impact their learning. Please advise your instructor or academic advisor prior to the beginning of the class if you have special needs.

**Extended time** **will not be granted past finals week unless arrangements are made ahead of time with a valid reason.**

**Grade changes will not be granted without a class completion contract that is approved by me and the college administration.**

**I reserve the right to adjust this schedule as I deem necessary.**