



## Biology 308 – Invertebrate Zoology Course Syllabus

### Course and Contact Information

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. David Allard
<b>Office Location:</b>	SCIT 219A
<b>Telephone:</b>	903-334-6672
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:David.Allard@tamut.edu">David.Allard@tamut.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	1:00 – 3:45 Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:45 Thursday

If needed we can set up a Blackboard Collaborate or Zoom meetings at most any time, including at night.

Call or email to setup an appointment

<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	MW 1:30-3:15
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### Place in the Biology Curriculum:

This course is an elective for biology majors. Recommended for those going into environmental science, veterinary and human medicine.

### Prerequisites:

Two semester of Biology

### Web Pages:

- [Dr. Allard's Home Page](#)
- [Dr. Allard's Blog](#)
- Twitter @dwallard
- [Dr. Allard's Science Page on Facebook](#)

### Course Description:

This course will explore the diversity of invertebrate types, morphologically, embryologically,

and physiologically. The ecological role of invertebrates will be emphasized. Prerequisite: 2 semesters of biology

### **Core Objectives:**

The general objective of this course is to familiarize the student with the basic concepts of invertebrate zoology. After taking this course the student should have an understanding of the following concepts: (1) Familiarity with the invertebrate phyla; (2) Invertebrate anatomy; (3) Invertebrate natural history; (3) Collection methods; (4) Invertebrate behavior; (5) Evolution of invertebrates.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- name 70% of the major invertebrate phyla on the lab exams
- identify 70% of the parts of the invertebrate anatomy on the lab exams.
- discuss the invertebrate phyla on essay questions with a score of 7 out of 10 points.

### **Required Text:**

Pechenik, Jan A. 2015. Biology of the Invertebrates. 7th Edition. McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 9781308347639. This is a special version of the book which only contains the chapters we will be covering and is only available at the campus bookstore.

### **Course Outline:**

- Introduction -- Read Chapters 1 and 2
- Protozoa Read Chapter 3
- Porifera Read Chapter 4
- Cnidaria & Ctenophora Read Chapters 5, 6 & 7
- **Lab Exam I**
- **Lecture Exam I**
- Platyhelminthes Read Chapter 8
- Nematodes & Friends Read Chapters 16 & 17
- Rotifera & Friends Read Chapter 10
- Annelida Read Chapter 13
- **Lab Exam II**
- **Lecture Exam II**
- Mollusca Read Chapter 12
- Arthropod Read Chapter 14
- Echinoderm Lecture -- Read Chapter 20
- **Lab Exam III -- Scavenger Hunt and Specimen Collection Due**
- **Lecture Exam III**

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

Evaluation: Three lecture exams, each worth 100 points will be given. Make-up exams may be made available in the event that the instructor receives notification prior to the scheduled examination time. The average of lecture work will comprise two-thirds of your grade. Laboratory exams and other work (Specimen collections, and other assignments) will be also

be given. The average of this work will comprise one-third of your grade. I will make every attempt to return your work by the next class period if possible and certainly within one week. \*Please note: There may also be unannounced pop-quizzes (you must be in your seat at the time the pop quizzes are handed out in order to take them), possibly some homework assignments and/or a class project, journals, and take-home exams. **Note: It is not possible to make up lab practical exams and no late work is accepted.**

### **Grading Scale:**

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 0-59%

### **Classroom Protocol:**

**Participation Policy:** Participation in the course will include attendance at all scheduled meetings and collaboration with other students in a group at assigned stations in lab.

**No cell phones, ipads, computers, etc. are to be used in class. These will be confiscated or you will be asked to leave the class if these items are used without permission.**

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is taken promptly at the beginning of class. Students coming in late are counted absent.

### **Tips (based on research):**

- Come to class and pay attention.
- Don't just sit there, take notes.
  - Here are some of the reasons why you should be taking notes for yourself. The practice of note-taking develops several important skills—starting with listening. You can't take notes if you aren't listening. You need to be able to take decent notes because in most professional contexts, indeed in life, you are regularly in situations that require taking in and processing information that you need to remember and later apply. You can't always be asking people to give you a copy of what they just told you. Beyond being an essential basic skill, note-taking offers you the opportunity to make the material your own. That doesn't involve making it mean whatever you want it to mean, but it does allow you to interact with it in ways that develop your understanding of it. Now, this doesn't happen when you equate note-taking with stenography and copy down exactly what the teacher says, and it doesn't happen when you recopy their notes and think that's studying. But it does happen when you work on and with your notes—when you put definitions into your own works, when you list relevant pages in the text, when you re-order the material so that it better connects with your knowledge, and when you write summaries and relate details to main points.(Weimer, 2013)
- Ask questions when you do not understand.
- Read the chapters in your text.
- Review your notes daily. The experts say that in order to master course content you need to spend 2-3 hours of study for every hour you are in class.
- Check Blackboard often and use the resources provided.
- Check your ace mail daily.

**Course Etiquette:**

Informal class participation is welcome. Please do not make comments that are off the subject or that impede the progress of the class.

**Disability Accommodations:**

Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

**Academic Integrity:**

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a grade of 'F' in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information, see the university catalog.

**Honor Code:**

Texas A&M University-Texarkana expects high standards that include academic honesty, personal integrity, and ethical, academic behavior of all its students. Reverence, relentless curiosity, and a willingness to participate are essential qualities of an emerging scholar, and the university encourages these qualities. A student's personal integrity, ethical behavior, and sense of honor contribute to a respectful and positive academic climate allowing all students to develop as scholars and reach their greatest academic potential. Since students are responsible for maintaining an academic climate based on trust and respect, they should report any activity threatening a climate conducive to learning to an instructor or administrator.

**Drop Policy:**

To drop this course after the census date (see semester calendar), a student must complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form, located on the University website or obtained in the Registrar's Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an "approval" to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar's office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, mail (7101 University Ave., Texarkana, TX 75503) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

**A&M-Texarkana Email Address:**

Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

## Student Technical Assistance

- Solutions to common problems and FAQ's for your web-enhanced and online courses are found on the [Online Student Training](#) page on our website.
- If you cannot find your resolution there, you can submit a support request by contacting the IT HelpDesk:
  - Email: [helpdesk@tamut.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamut.edu)
  - Phone: 903-334-6603
  - Submit a [Support Request Ticket](#)
- Additional student help for Blackboard can be found here:
  - [Blackboard Help for Students](#)

## Technical Requirements:

The following are the minimum computer requirements for online learning:

- A computer capable of handling streaming video. A mid-range multi-core CPU should be adequate.
- A sound card.
- A high speed internet connection preferably directly connected to the computer via a hard-wired Ethernet connection rather than wirelessly connected.
- Virus and adware protection software.
- Microsoft Word, minimum version 2007 or above.
- [Mozilla Firefox](#) browser available free.
- The most recent versions of Java, Flash, QuickTime, Adobe Reader, and Shockwave. You can check this in the Firefox browser by visiting:
  - [Firefox Plugin Check Tool](#)

Please note: some instructors may require the use of a headset with microphone and/or a webcam. If so, the cost of these items is not included in your course fees and will need to be acquired at your own expense.

## Blackboard Mobile for iOS and Android Devices:

Android and iOS devices are currently supported using the Blackboard Mobile App, available for free from your App Store or scan the code below:



The Blackboard Mobile App provides limited access to courses, including the ability to read and contribute to discussions, check grades and announcements, access content, read and comment on blogs, reflect in journals, link to your personal Dropbox, and receive push notifications when courses are updated. Limited course features may also be available via your mobile device's browser; however, your mobile device does not replace your personal computer and should not be used as a substitute for one. High stakes assignments, tests, etc. should be completed on your personal computer, and not on your mobile device.

**The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as necessary.**

Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the syllabus and understand that I am responsible for meeting class expectations including keeping track of class assignments and due dates.