Invertebrate Zoology
Biol 484 (4 credits)
Course Syllabus – Fall 2016

Instructor:
Dr. Christine E. Parent, LSS257
ceparent@uidaho.edu
208-885-4016 (email is preferred)
Office hour: R 11:30am-12:20pm (or by appointment)

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Lectures: MWF 10:30-11:20am, LIFE163

Labs: R 2:30-5:20pm, LIFE365

Mandatory Weekend Fieldtrip: September 16-18, 2016

Course Requirements: Biol 114 & Biol 115, or permission of instructor

Recommended Textbooks:
Preferred: Invertebrates, 3rd ed., Brusca & Brusca (2016)
Biology of the Invertebrates, 7th ed., J.A. Pechenik (2015)
Invertebrate Zoology, 7th ed., Ruppert, Fox & Barnes (2004)

Other Course Material: Class Notes, lab instruction sheets, and other course information will be found on the class site on blackboard: https://bblearn.uidaho.edu/. You will be prompted to enter your username (vand####) and password to access course materials. Lecture slides and/or notes will be posted as study aids following lectures.

About the course: The field of invertebrate zoology is so extensive that we can only scratch the surface during an introductory course. We will therefore treat most groups superficially, but in doing so you will be introduced to an incredibly diverse array of animals that you most probably cannot even imagine. The course will be organized around three main fundamental themes: (1) form and function [functional morphology]; (2) development and life history [ontogeny]; and (3) diversity and evolutionary history [phylogeny].

Note: Insects will, for the most part, be ignored. This is not because they do not deserve our attention, but rather because there are already several excellent courses in entomology offered in other departments at UI, and therefore our focus will be on other invertebrates.

The objectives of the course are to (1) introduce you to how invertebrate animals are organized, how they work, and how they reproduce; (2) provide you with a basic understanding of invertebrate diversity; and (3) stimulate an appreciation of invertebrates and their remarkable evolutionary innovations. In addition to tackling relevant questions in ecology and evolutionary biology, throughout the course we will also venture into the world of environmental sciences and conservation, biomedical research, and other relevant fields as they relate to invertebrate zoology. To accomplish these goals, it will be necessary for you to assimilate a substantial amount of factual information; be ready to observe, draw, and write; and also to integrate and synthesize information into ideas and concepts. Together, we will learn a great deal about (and from) invertebrates. I hope for this exploration of the world of invertebrates to be fun, and to serve as a glimpse of the broader phylogenetic context within which these remarkably diverse organisms have evolved.

Grading:

Item:	Details:	Points
In-lab participation	Short presentations, quizzes, etc.	10
Lab work	Exercise sheets, short reports, lab book, etc.	15
Lab practicum 1	In lab, 2:30-5:30pm, Oct 13 2016	7.5
Lab practicum 2	In lab, 2:30-5:30pm Dec 1 2016	7.5
Weekend Field Trip	Participation, data and sample collections	10
In-class participation	Quizzes, active discussion, etc.	10
Short papers (x3)	Favorite species collected on fieldtrip, 5 pts per paper	15
Midterm	In class, Oct 17 2016	10
Final	In class, 10am-12pm Dec 15 2016	15
Total		100

Lecture Exams will consist of a combination of fill in the blank, short-answer, matching, multiple-choice, and short essay questions. Lecture and lab exams will be scheduled during the normal lecture and lab period.

Laboratory Exercises and investigations will supplement lecture material, and be available for download from the class site on blackboard (https://bblearn.uidaho.edu/) prior to lab. Further details will be presented in lab.

Absence from exams and lab sessions will only be excused with a written letter in advance documenting reasons of illness, family emergency, or conflict with an official University function (athletics, FFA, Ag Ambassadors, course field trips, etc.). Missed lab sessions will be rescheduled at the discretion of the instructor.

Final Exam Policy: Students with University excused absences during the final exam period must notify us in advance. Failure to notify instructor in writing (email) at least ONE WEEK in advance will result in you NOT being allowed to make-up the final exam. Not showing up for the final exam means you get a zero. Please note that it is departmental policy for NO EARLY FINAL EXAMS. Please make your travel arrangements accordingly. Grading Concerns: Exam keys will be posted online. If you think your exams or labs were incorrectly graded, you must submit your concern to me in writing justifying your request for re-grading within 3 days of receiving your graded assignment.

Academic Honesty: Anything you turn in must be your own work. I will check and will be very unforgiving of plagiarism. If you are unsure how to use/cite other people's work, ask me. You can (and SHOULD!) discuss and help each other learn the material. But any copying of turned in work from other students or elsewhere will be followed by actions as governed by Article II of the University of Idaho's Student Code of Conduct. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the dean of students. Individuals guilty of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the course and may face further disciplinary action.