

SPIDER BIOLOGY

ENY 4905, ZOO 4926
FALL 2017

Instructor:

Dr. Lisa Taylor

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Office Hours: TBA, email for an appointment at any time

Course:

Time & Location: Monday & Wednesday Period 4: 10:40-11:30, Bartram 211

Credit Hours: 2

Prerequisites: None

Audience: Anyone with an interest in spiders, arachnids, biology, or behavior

Course Web Page:

On Canvas at: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

Course Objectives:

This course will introduce you to the fascinating world of spiders and their relatives. You will learn about many aspects of their biology, especially their ecology, behavior, and evolution. Spiders are diverse and while identification is not the focus of the course, your goal will be to comfortably recognize and be familiar with the diversity and biology of members of ~20 common spider families as well as several common Gainesville species.

Text Books (recommended):

Levi, H. & Levi, L. A Guide to Spiders and Their Kin. St Martins Press. (Tiny field guide)

Edwards, GB and Marshall, S. 2002. Florida's Fabulous Spiders. World Pubns.

Foelix, R. 2011. Biology of Spiders. 3rd Edition. Oxford Press.

Bradley, RA & Buchanan, S. 2012. Common Spiders of North America. U. California Press

Grading Scale:

Midterm Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Spider ID quizzes (x4)	60 points (15 points each)
Spider behavioral project	75 points
<u>Attendance and participation</u>	<u>25 points</u>
Total:	360 points

Grading Scale (%)

A	90-100
B+	88-89.9
B	80-87.9
C+	78-79.9
C	70-77.9
D	60-69.9
E	<60

GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE*

<u>Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Introduction

2	Overview of spider & arachnid diversity
3	Evolution of arachnids, spider behavior project: how to care for your spider
4	Evolution, diversity, and identification of spider families
5	Diversity of Florida spiders
6	Field trip #1 during class – meet at Natural Area (NATL)
7	Spider mating 1, spider ID quiz #1
8	Spider mating 2
9	Campus spider walk – common Gainesville spiders, spider ID quiz #2
10	Gainesville spider diversity (continued)
11	Spider sensory ecology 1: vision
12	Spider sensory ecology 2: mechanoreception
13	Field trip #2 during class – meet at Natural Area (NATL)
14	Spider ID quiz #3 and review for midterm
15	<u>Midterm</u>
16	Spider sensory ecology 3: chemoreception
17	Spider morphology and development
18	Mimicry in spiders
19	Webs
20	Venom
21	Social Spiders
22	Predators of spiders and anti-predator defenses
23	Spiders as predators, using spiders for biocontrol, spider ID quiz #4
24	Spider cognition and learning
25	Non-spider arachnid diversity
26	No class (complete online Canvas module this week)
27	No class – Thanksgiving break
28	Arachnophobia, myths, and misconceptions
27	Review for final exam, spider behavioral papers due
28	<u>Final Exam (in class, during normal class period)</u>

*Course outline is a tentative schedule; it is subject to change

Policy Items:

Attendance:

Educational success is directly related to class attendance and participation, it is therefore necessary that you attend every possible class meeting to assure success in this course. You cannot get all of the material in this course from any book, readings or from the online documents alone.

Make-up Exams: Contact the instructor as soon as you know that you will not be present for an exam. Only truly legitimate excuses will be accepted, and official documentation is required to make up an exam.

Academic Honesty:

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University".

We, the members of the University of Florida, pledge to hold ourselves and peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

UF Counseling Services:

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. University Counseling Center, 302 Peabody Hall, 392-1575 personal and career counseling

2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services, Student Health Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling

Software Use:

All faculty, staff and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damage and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken, as appropriate.

Information for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the Office for Student Services to determine the appropriate classroom accommodations. Any student requesting classroom accommodations must be registered with the Dean of Students Office, P202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261(TDD - 392-3008), and have documentation on file in the office of Student Services in order to receive classroom and/or examination accommodations. For students with hearing disabilities trying to contact an office that does not list a TDD, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771.

UF Policy on E-mail:

“Official University business email will be communicated to students using the University GatorLink email account. That is, official email will be sent exclusively to GatorLinkUserName@ufl.edu. The preferred email address recorded for all students will be the GatorLink address. This is the email address displayed in the online phonebook. Students may continue to use the forwarding mechanism to deliver their email to other mail services, if they wish. However, it is the student’s responsibility to insure that the forwarding address is current so that they receive official communications from the University”.