BI/ENT 300, HORT 330 PESTS, PLAGUES AND POLITICS

COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring Quarter 2013

Instructor: Vaughn Walton, Associate Professor of Horticulture
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Class meeting schedule: MWF, Section I @ 1300 hr., Section II @ 1400 hr., Ag & Life Sciences 4000


Class Notes: http://hort.oregonstate.edu/current/undergrad/course_materials

Course Objectives

Pests, Plagues & Politics, a baccalaureate core offering, are designed as a terminal entomology course for non-science majors. As insects represent the largest and most successful taxon of animals in the world, the goals and objectives of this course appropriately include:

1) The recognition and appreciation of the influence of insects on human society, past, present and future.
2) To understand the roles of insects in various areas of human activity, including art, music, religion, warfare, and the law.
3) To develop a more complete understanding of insects as competitors for our food supply and the measures taken to mitigate their damage.
4) To recognize the role played by insects as vectors of human disease and the historical impacts this has had on the present geopolitical structure of human societies.
5) To abate or hopefully eliminate the faunal chauvinism displayed towards insects in general.

"`What sort of insects do you rejoin in, where you come from?’ the Gnat inquired."

"`I don’t rejoice in insects at all. ’ Alice explained."
Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*

**Grading**

Two written examinations will be given; a mid-term and final (55% of grade). An outside written assignment concerning “Insects & Music” is also a requirement. The written assignment will account for ca. 20% of the final grade. More complete instructions for the written assignment are available on the course WEB page. Ten Quizzes (25% of grade)

**Lecture Schedule**

April  
1: Lecture 1- The Success of Insects.  
3: Lecture 2 - The Mechanics of Insects.  
5: Lecture 3 - The Naming of Insects: Aristotle, Linnaeus & Beyond  
8: Lecture 4 - How Insects Got That Way - Evolution  
10: Lecture 5 - Insect Products: Silk, Lac, Ink & Paper  
12: Lecture 6 - Insect Products: The Harvest of the Hive  
15: Lecture 7 - Insects Living On You  
17: Lecture 8 - Insect Music, Art & Poetry  
19: Lecture 9 - Insects & Metaphysics: From the Pharaohs to Salt Lake City  
22: Lecture 10 - Entomological Evangelisms. "Killer" Bees  
24: Lecture 11 - Insects and the Physician  
26: Lecture 12 - Dangerous Insects

**29- MIDTERM 1**

May  
1: Lecture 13 - Insect Communication: Light & Sound Shows  
3: Lecture 14 - Who Eats Whom: "Natural" Insect Control  
6: Lecture 15 - Alternative Insect Control: Pre- & Post DDT  
8: Lecture 16 - Insects In Your Diet: Entomophagy {Me?? Eat a bug?? – NEVER!!}  
10: Lecture 17 - Entomologists & Insects as Heroes  
13: Lecture 18 - The Year of the Locusts & other Biblical Plagues
15: Lecture 19 - Further Plagues: The Black Death to AIDS

17: Lecture 20 - Insect Borne Disease (continued): Have We Conquered Malaria??

20: Lecture 21 - Bugs as Bombs: Insects & Militarism

22: Lecture 22 - Entomological Evangelisms: Gypsy Moths in Paradise

24: Lecture 23 - Entomological Evangelisms: The Colorado Potato Beetle

27: Memorial Day Holiday

29: Lecture 24 - Insects & the Law

31: Lecture 25 - Insect Communication: The Perfumes of Sex & Life

June 3: Lecture 26 - Insects & Agriculture - Where's the Problem????

5: Oregon State Arthropod Collection – What is it? And What is the function? Dr. Chris Marshall, OSAC Curator

7: Entomologic Musicale

Final Exam [Held in ALS 4000]

Section 1 (meeting @ 1 pm): Thursday, June 13th, 14h00 hr. (2 PM)
Section 2 (meeting @ 2 pm): Friday, June 14th, 07h30 hr. (07h30 AM)