

# Course Syllabus - ENTM 49390 Insect Biology Capstone Forum

**Semester:** Spring 2026

**Instructors:** Dr. Douglas Richmond and Entomology Capstone Mentors

**Credit Hours:** 1 credit (Arranged with Capstone Mentor)

**Course Description:** ENTM 49390 is an experiential course that provides students with an avenue for communicating the results of their capstone project to their peers. Students must enroll during the semester in which they intend to report the results of their capstone project, which usually occurs during the final semester. Students will be required to report their results in-person using a scientific poster format.

**Learning Objectives:** In completing this course, students will demonstrate their ability to integrate their accumulated knowledge, and technical and social skills by communicating the results of their capstone project to their peers.

**Co- or Prerequisites:** None

**Required Textbooks and other readings materials:** None

## Student Performance:

Quality and organization of the scientific poster .....	100 pts
Understanding of the work and its implications .....	100 pts
Commitment to the project.....	100 pts
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>300 pts</b>

## Grading Scale/Distribution:

A = 90+%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 59% or less

## The Capstone Scientific Poster

A scientific poster presentation summarizing the capstone project is required of every student enrolled in ENTM 49390. A digital version of the poster will be uploaded to Brightspace, and a printed version will be displayed during the capstone forum which will be held at **3:45 pm on Thursday, April 23, 2026** (location to be determined). Poster set-up will begin at 3:30 pm. The quality and organization of the poster and the student's ability to answer questions and engage attendees will be evaluated by the capstone mentor using the UCC Written and Oral Communication rubrics, respectively.

## Poster Formatting and Printing

The poster should be formatted to a maximum size of 36" x 48" (H x W). For additional details, please see the poster printing guidelines posted on the BrightSpace sight. Arrangements should be made with Bransen Shidler ([shidler@purdue.edu](mailto:shidler@purdue.edu)) to make sure the poster is printed well ahead of time. Last minute printing requests may not be accommodated. A foam board and easel will be provided for displaying the poster.

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## Course Policies

Please note that the **Student Resources widget** is located on the Brightspace homepage. The widget includes direct links to student resources for Technology, Academic, Campus, and Health and Well-Being. Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with these resources.

## Attendance and Participation

The instructor expects students to be in attendance for sessions organized by the capstone mentor.

## Artificial Intelligence

Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) to complete course assignments is not permitted unless explicitly authorized. All submitted work must reflect your own original effort. AI tools may be used to support your learning (e.g., brainstorming, checking grammar, generating practice questions), but they may not be used to produce a final product. If AI assistance is used in any part of your work, you must provide a clear acknowledgment. Assignments may be reviewed using AI-detection tools. If AI-generated content is used without proper disclosure, the assignment may receive no credit. Additional penalties may include course failure or referral to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

## Nondiscrimination

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her potential. A hyperlink to Purdue's full Nondiscrimination Policy Statement is included in the Academic Resources tab on your Brightspace homepage.

## Accessibility

Purdue University strives to make learning experiences accessible to all participants. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: [drc@purdue.edu](mailto:drc@purdue.edu) or by phone: 765-494-1247, as soon as possible. If the Disability Resource Center (DRC) has determined reasonable accommodations that you would like to utilize in my class, you must release your Course Accommodation Letter to me. Instructions on sharing your Course Accommodation Letter can be found by visiting: <https://www.purdue.edu/drc/students/course-accommodation-letter.php> Additionally, you are strongly encouraged to contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss implementation of your accommodations.

## Mental Health/Wellness

If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try [Therapy Assistance Online \(TAO\)](#), a web and app-based mental health resource available courtesy of Purdue Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). TAO is available to all students at any time by creating an account on the [TAO Connect website](#), or downloading the app from the App Store or Google Play. It offers free, confidential well-being resources through a self-guided program informed by psychotherapy research and strategies that may aid in overcoming anxiety, depression and other concerns. It provides accessible and effective resources including short videos, brief exercises, and self-reflection tools.

If you need support and information about options and resources, please contact or see the [Office of the Dean of Students](#). Call 765-494-1747. Hours of operation are M-F, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

If you find yourself struggling to find a healthy balance between academics, social life, stress, etc., sign up for free one-on-one virtual or in-person sessions in West Lafayette with a Purdue Wellness Coach at RecWell. Student coaches can help you navigate through barriers and challenges toward your goals throughout the semester. Sign up is free and can be done on BoilerConnect.

If you're struggling and need mental health services: Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact [Counseling and Psychological](#)

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[Services \(CAPS\)](#) at 765-494-6995 during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS offices in West Lafayette or Indianapolis.

### Campus Emergencies

In the event of a campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

### Specific Actions Will Be Taken in Case of an Emergency

- If we hear a **fire alarm**, we will immediately suspend class, **evacuate the building**, and proceed outdoors, and away from the building. **Do not use the elevator.**
- If we are notified of a **Shelter in Place requirement for a tornado warning**, we will suspend class and **shelter in the lowest level of this building** away from windows and doors.
- If we are notified of a **Shelter in Place requirement for a hazardous materials release, or a civil disturbance, including a shooting or other use of weapons**, we will suspend class and **shelter in our classroom**, shutting any open doors or windows, locking or securing the door, and turning off the lights.