Insects in Prose and Poetry - Syllabus

Entm 11100 (Fall 2011/2012)

Instructor: Tom Turpin
Smith Hall Rm 127D
Office Phone: 494-4568
Home Phone: 572-2225
email: turpin@purdue.edu

Course Goal: Introduce students to prose and poetry about insects or that makes significant use of insects.

Specific Objectives: To interpret the literary use of insects and evaluate the biological accuracy of the usage. Maybe learn a new word or two!

Requirements:

1. Homework/Classwork/Test (13, each worth 50 pt) 650
2. Write and present poem (about insects or feelings regarding insects) 100
3. Paper on poet/writer: focus on insect use 150

Total Points: 900

Reading Assignments: In Entm.111 Class Notes - available at the Boilermaker Copy Center (in Union).

About Those Requirements

Attendance: You are expected to be in class every day because student participation in this class is how you learn the material. There will be an activity worth 50 points associated with each class that can only be earned if you are in class. In the event of a second or subsequent excused absence you will be given ½ credit for homework for that lesson.

Homework:

The homework is based on the assigned material for the class period. Completing the homework will allow you to participate in the class discussions. Consequently, copying the homework does little to achieve the goal of informed class participation. In addition, copying another person’s answer is plagiarism even if it is “only” homework. Turn in at
beginning of class period. Homework must be turned in during the class period to earn full credit. (50 points each)

Test:

A set of short-answer questions over material covered during the previous class and/or material assigned for the current class. (50 points for each test)

In-Class Activity

Group activity completed during class period that will be turned in for grading. (50 points for each activity)

Writing a Poem:

Do your best at constructing a poem about insects or your feeling about insects. Use any style you want, but be advised if you try something just to minimize effort, it might appear that way! In which case I will feel free to give you a minimum number of points.

Paper on Poet:

Choose a poet, writer, composer or any other individual that uses words in their vocation. Does not have to be a long paper, 1200 words or so will be sufficient. Make sure that the reader will learn a little about the life of the subject and how they have used insects. Also include examples of their use of insects. Include at least three references (at least one has to be a text source). Be sure to cite references where appropriate. Do not use material directly without giving credit! See example (W. S. Blatchley: Tramp Naturalist) p1 in Class Notes.

Cheating:

Copying homework, looking on other student’s papers, and using other
people’s work without proper citation on poems or papers constitute cheating. **Cheating will not be tolerated!**

**Use of tutors:**

Since tutors might not play a legitimate educational role in this class the use of a tutor (either hired or volunteer) is prohibited unless supervised by the Department of Entomology and any student who does not comply with this rule will receive an F for the course.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on: 90% and above = A, 89 – 80% = B, 79 – 70% = C, 69 – 60% = D, and 59% and below = F. I reserve the right to reduce the percentage at the low end of each grade category. However the stated low end is guaranteed.

**Calendar (Entm. 11100 – Fall I (2010/2011))**

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Stuff that you should pay attention to as you read assignments.

Biology of insects included in reading or discussion. Such things as where they live, what they eat, which sex sings or how they behave.

How insects are used in the literary effort. For example, to represent the human soul or as a Long-lost love.

Who is the author of the work.

What the title of the piece might mean.

The major idea and/or insect included in the work.

Any entomological errors in work such as the title might say butterfly but the poet was really talking about moths.
“Now the first thing you must learn is to distinguish between ANTS and AUNTS!”

“I thought I told you never to play with fireflies!”