ENTM 295T
Forensic Entomology & Taphonomy
Smith Hall Room 125
Monday 8:30 – 11:20 a.m.
Fall Semester 2009

This course focuses on applications of insects in forensic investigations and
on the postmortem fate of human remains.

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Entomology, Smith B9
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The text used for this class is:  *Entomology & Death – A Procedural Guide, 2nd
Clemson, SC.*

**WARNING:** Due to the graphic nature of this class and its contents, those who feel they might exhibit a problem with some of the more explicit material that will be shown or discussed during class should exercise caution. If there are any concerns please contact one of the instructors for guidance.

*Federal copyright laws and Indiana State statues relevant to deceased individuals prohibit the copying or duplication or videotaping of any material presented as a part of this class.*

*Qui Locquitor Pro Victima*
CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1:
August 24
Introduction – Review of the Course
Aspects of Forensic Entomology
Review of Insects of Forensic Importance
Standard Techniques & Procedures at the Crime Scene
**Readings: Chapters 1, 3, 4, 9, and 10**

August 31
The Use of Photography to Document Evidence at Outdoor Death Scenes
[Patrick Jones]

September 7
Labor Day – No class

September 14
Field Collection of Forensic Entomological Evidence
**Readings: Chapter 5**

September 21
Continued Collection of Entomological Evidence in Field Procedures in the Forensic Entomology Laboratory
**Readings: Chapter 8**

September 27-28
Field Trip to University of Tennessee Anthropology Research Center

October 5
**Quiz 1**
Identification of Insects of Forensic Importance
**Readings: Chapter 3**

October 12
October Break – No class

October 19
Identification and Analysis of Entomological Evidence
How To Determine the Postmortem Interval Using Insects
**Readings: Chapter 9**

October 26
Special Habitat Considerations in Forensic Entomological Investigations
[, Ralph Williams]
**Readings: Chapters 6 and 7**
November 2
Taphonomic Applications In Forensic Anthropology

November 9
Forensic Botany [Dr. Carole Lembi]

November 16
Quiz 2
Wildlife Forensics [Judy Loven, USDA]

November 23
Postmortem Changes – Tissues, Bones & Associated Material
Biodegradation of Hair/Fibers/Tissues
Collection of Trace Evidence at the Death Scene

November 30
Being an Expert Witness
Legal Entomology in Food Contamination, Civil and Health Related Issues
Readings: Chapters 10 and 11

December 7
Case Study Paper & Report

The student is responsible for recording notes and class material. The instructors will not provide the lecture material to any student that misses a class. This is your responsibility.
Performance Assessment:

Quiz 1  25 points
Quiz 2  25 points
Assignment 1  50 points
Assignment 2  50 points
Case Study
   Paper &
   Report  100 points
Final Exam  100 points

Total pts  350

Each quiz will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer. The final exam will be comprehensive of the entire course material.

A ≥ 315 pt. = 90%
B ≥ 280 pt. = 80%
C ≥ 245 pt. = 70%
D ≥ 210 pt. = 60%
F < 210

Attendance Policy:
- Excused-absence forms must be signed (or documentation of the absence provided in some other manner). Absences must be approved by Dr. Ralph Williams
- Excused absences are generally limited to Purdue University activities, health problems, family emergencies and interview trips. (These must be documented).
- Any missed quizzes or exams must be made-up within 7 calendar days of the student’s return to school. Quizzes/exams may be made up only if an excused absence is approved.
- There are no provisions for “extra credit”.

In the event of a major 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. Here are ways to get information about changes in this course. My email address: rew@purdue.edu, and my office phone: 494-4560.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR SUCCESS IN ENTM 295T:

TAKE THE TIME TO LEARN NEW WORDS AND CONCEPTS – You will be expected to know all the material presented and any reading assignments even if it might seem trivial to you.

HAVE FUN AND ENJOY THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN – from content and instructors about this fascinating field of Forensic Entomology & Taphonomy

ASK QUESTIONS – Instructors are happy to reply to your questions.