

ENT 202 Spring 2022
The Insect Connection: Society, Globalization and Sustainability

Course Syllabus and Schedule

Welcome to ENT 202! Your enjoyment and performance in this class will be maximized if you read this entire syllabus so you don't miss important details about assignment deadlines, assignment instructions, and expectations for the course. This syllabus is subject to change; changes will be issued in writing and uploaded to the class website on Canvas.

Course Description: ENT202 is a GN *Science* course that will use an interdisciplinary approach to look at the *Biology* and the interplay between nature and society. Major themes of the course will be illustrated focusing on the world of *Insects* and the relationships between *Society and Insects*. Emphasis will be placed on critical analysis of both the costs and the benefits of human activities that impact natural systems.

Course Learning Goals:

1. Discuss, describe, and give examples of relevant ecological and evolutionary processes and / or phenomena.
2. Apply content knowledge and understanding in novel contexts and situations.
3. Recognize the implications of the two-way dynamic between human activities and insects.
4. Make predictions associated with likely impacts of human activities on natural systems, ecosystem services, and insect and human populations.
5. Conduct research of relevant literature and utilize empirical evidence to support claims.
6. Discuss, describe, and give examples of the two-way relationship between social issues and scientific discovery.
7. Communicate scientific knowledge to a diverse audience.

Instructor

Dr. Etya Amsalem

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Office hours: by appointment

Teaching assistants

Name	Email	Office	Who is my TA?
Erica Laveaga	eul19@psu.edu	106 Tyson Building	Students last name A-Di
Nia Riggins (Blue)	njr5540@psu.edu	138 ASI Building	Students last name Do-Ku
Sujay Paranjape	smp6934@psu.edu	202 Life Sciences Building	Students last name Le-Ri
Sarah Spence	sks6958@psu.edu	202 Life Sciences Building	Students last name Ro-Z

TAs' Office hours: by appointment, please contact by email.

Where and when: The class is offered online in a **Remote Synchronous Instruction mode** on Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:05 to 10:20 am. Exams will be conducted **in person** in PSU teaching center

Credit: This is a 3-credit course.

Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance is not required but is *strongly recommended*. A portion of your grade will be determined by in class exercises and quizzes, which cannot be made up. Also, some of the materials covered on exams will be from in-class lecture, and / or class discussions.

Course resources. Lecture notes, PDFs of primary literature, and additional information pertaining to the lectures, will be posted on the Canvas website. Canvas will be also used for announcements, accessing your grades, and communicating with your instructor and classmates.

Course communication. If you need to communicate with me, please use email. Please use your own Penn State email account to send and receive messages and to login to Canvas. You will need your PSU email address to participate in Zoom classes. Office hours are by appointment. Barring unusual circumstances, expect a reply within 24 hours during the week, and 48 hours over the weekend. **Please be aware that I do not check email between 5 pm to 8 am.** I will occasionally email members of the class. Please check your email regularly to be sure you get the info I send out. Each student is responsible for reading and following the instructions, guidelines, and schedules in this syllabus and on the course webpage or announced in class. Not having read the information in this syllabus, on the webpage or in course announcements will not constitute an excuse for missing deadlines, assignments, or other assessments. Please set your preference in Canvas so that you receive timely notifications of course announcements and other information. Questions about homework and course materials should first be sent to the TAs. Please be aware that email is NOT an acceptable method by which to submit assignments.

Log-In Policy. Students are expected to log-in regularly to keep up-to-date with announcements, discussions, etc. The class will progress at a regular pace throughout the semester and there are specific due dates and times for assignments, etc.

Grading: Your grade will be calculated on the basis of the total number of percentage points earned for each of the following categories:

In-class quizzes – 100 pts (10%)

Homework – 200 pts (20%)

Exam 1 - 300 pts (30%)

Exam 2 - 300 pts (30%)

Exam 3 - 100 pts (10%)

Grading Scale: Final grades will be assigned based upon the following percentages:

A	< 100%	to 93%
A-	< 93%	to 90%
B+	< 90%	to 87%

B	< 87%	to 83%
B-	< 83%	to 80%
C+	< 80%	to 77%
C	< 77%	to 70%
D	< 70%	to 60%
F	< 60%	to 0%

Throughout the semester, you will be able to view your **temporary grade** on Canvas. However, Canvas averages all of your quizzes, while your **final grade** will be determined using the best five quizzes. Keep this in mind when viewing your temporary grade!

Quizzes: about 10-15 pop-quizzes will be conducted throughout the semester. The quizzes will be conducted in Canvas during class time without a further notice, can be given anytime during class time and may contain 3-5 questions in a similar format to the questions given in the exams. The average score of the best five quizzes will account for a total of 10% of the grade. Quizzes cannot be made up but you will have plenty opportunities during the semester to take at least five.

Homework Assignments: There are 10 homework assignments during this course. These assignments must be completed and submitted by the end of the prescribed day. The list of assignments, a link to the media associated with them and their due date are provided below. Late assignments will not be accepted. All homework assignments should be submitted as a WORD document via Canvas and account for a total of 20% of the total grade. Assignments will be released 2 weeks before the due date (except of the first one that will be released on the first class).

Due date	Available at	Assignment	TA
Jan 20	Jan 11	#1 Radiolab Podcast: Yellow fluff and other stuff	Sarah Spence
Jan 27	Jan 11	#2 YouTube Video: The Whole History of the Earth and Life	Erica Laveaga
Feb 3	Jan 20	#3 Radiolab Podcast: Inheritance	Sujay Paranjape
Feb 15	Feb 1	#4 Radiolab Podcast: Damn bugs	Blue Riggins
Feb 24	Feb 10	#5 Radiolab Podcast: Animal minds	Sarah Spence
Mar 3	Feb 17	#6 Ted Talk The loves and lives of fireflies	Erica Laveaga
Mar 17	Mar 3	#7 Radiolab Podcast: Glad somebody likes bugs...	Sujay Paranjape
Mar 31	Mar 17	#8 Ted Talk: Marcel Dicke: Why not eat insects?	Blue Riggins
Apr 12	Mar 29	#9 HW: Radiolab Podcast: Parasites	Sarah Spence
Apr 21	Apr 7	#10 HW: Radiolab Podcast: Poop Train	Erica Laveaga

NOTE #1: You are required to do all assignments. They must be completed by the due date as listed next to each assignment on the Canvas web site. Due dates will only be extended for extenuating situations, such as the server being down for a significant period of time (all day or more). Do not leave these assignments until the last minute because you may not be able to log-in due to server demand, or the server may go down for a short time preventing you finishing the assignment. These are not adequate excuses for missing an assignment. Late homework will not be accepted and a score of 0 will be assigned.

NOTE #2: you must answer HW questions with your own words. You cannot quote sentences from the podcasts or videos and cannot have your answers be identical to another student in the class. In cases we receive fully or partially identical assignments, we will grade all assignments involved with 0. This is considered **plagiarism** (see more information below) and cases of plagiarism may be reported to the office of student conduct.

Exams There will be 3 exams spaced throughout the semester. Exam questions will be based on lecture material and homework assignments. Each exam will have a combination of multiple-choice, fill in the blank, true/false, and short answer questions. The first two exams worth 30% of the total grade while the last exam accounts for 10% of the total grade. The exams are not cumulative. **There is no final exam during finals week.** All exams will be conducted IN PERSON in the **Pollock testing center** (<http://testing.psu.edu/>). A week before the exam you will receive an email to your **PSU email address** asking you to sign in for your test. The test lasts 60 min and can be conducted anytime between 8 am and 10 pm during the exam day.

Make up requests for exam will only be given if a sound reason with written documentation is provided, (e.g. letter from Deans Office). Formally accepted excuses are one of the followings: illness, injury, military service, family emergency, religious observance, athletic contests, employment and graduate school interviews. Unless urgent (e.g., car accident in the morning of the exam), students should ask for permission to miss an exam for at least 24 hours before the exam for reasons associated with illness and at least 7 days prior to the exam for pre-scheduled events (job interview or sporting event). Requests for makeup exams should be sent directly to Dr. Amsalem. Any make-up exam that is agreed to must be taken within three days of the original test date and it is the responsibility of the student to schedule it. Make up exams may be given in an oral format or in person.

Rebuttals. If you think you were graded unfairly (or erroneously) on an assignment or exam, please turn in a written explanation (rebuttal) with your graded assignment/exam to the instructor within two weeks. The instructor will write a response and return it to you. You may set up an appointment if you disagree with the resolution.

Extra credit. If interested in improving your grade, you may submit an additional assignment. The last day to submit the assignment will be Apr 28, 2022. The assignment can be scored with up to 40 points that will be added to the final grade.

Instructions: First you need to find an article in the popular press about insects. You need to cite the article, write a one-page summary of it and provide a one-page critique about the information provided in the article. To do so, you need to refer to the material from the lectures and explain if you think the author has presented the science accurately or not. The TAs responsible for the assignments will be **Blue Riggins and Sujay Paranjape** and every assignment should be sent via email to both of them and to Dr. Amsalem. Please make sure you received a confirmation email that your assignment has been received. Examples of places to look: The New York Times (Tuesday is Science News day), Centre Daily Times, Time, Newsweek, or National Geographic. Other sources are acceptable but avoid strange websites - try for more mainstream journalism.

Be courteous. Every student is expected to contribute to a positive, distraction-free learning environment. Laptops and other electronic devices may be used for taking notes during the lecture, but please refrain from activities not directly related to the course. Please do not talk while the instructor or

another student is talking to the class. In general, please be respectful of other students and the educational process.

Penn State policies and resources

Accessibility Information. Accessibility statement for [Canvas](#).

Netiquette. The term "Netiquette" refers to the etiquette guidelines for electronic communications, such as e-mail and discussion postings. Netiquette covers not only rules to maintain civility in discussions, but also special guidelines unique to the electronic nature of messages. Please review Virginia Shea's "[The Core Rules of Netiquette](#)" for general guidelines that should be followed when communicating in this course. When you send an email to the professor or the TAs, please refer to them in an appropriate way (Ms Spence, Mr Paranjape, Dr. Amsalem). If you are not sure how to approach someone, simply ask!

Remote Learning. Visit the Penn State [Remote Learning](#) website as it provides answers to frequently asked questions, offers student support resources, and contains contact information for those who can help answer any questions you may have about learning remotely.

Support Services. As a Penn State student, you have access to a variety of services and resources, including advising, tutoring, library services, career services, and more. Please visit the [Student Support Resources](#) page for more information.

If you experience technology problems of any kind in Canvas, please select the Help icon and select "Report a Canvas Problem," "Chat with Support," or "Call Support." It is in your own best interest to be as specific as you possibly can. Vague descriptions of a problem only delay assistance. Try to include information such as: the specific course page, quiz question, etc. you were on; what you attempted to do when that failed; the exact language of any error message displayed on your screen; the date and time when your problem occurred; and any other pertinent information (does the problem happen consistently and always in the same way, etc.).

Online Students Use of the Library. As Penn State students, you have access to many of the materials that the library offers to students. Please visit the [University Libraries](#) website as it provides services including tutorials, peer reference consultants, an ask-a-librarian chat service, and data support to students from all campuses.

Educational Equity Statement. Penn State takes great pride to foster a diverse and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and staff. Acts of intolerance, discrimination, or harassment due to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religious belief, sexual orientation, or veteran status are not tolerated and can be reported through Educational Equity at the [Report Bias](#) webpage.

Copyright Notice. All course materials students receive or to which students have online access are protected by copyright laws. Students may use course materials and make copies for their own use as needed, but unauthorized distribution and/or uploading of materials without the instructor's express permission is strictly prohibited. University Policy AD 40, the University Policy Recording of Classroom Activities and Note Taking Services addresses this issue. Students who engage in the unauthorized

distribution of copyrighted materials may be held in violation of the University's Code of Conduct, and/or liable under Federal and State laws.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). Many students at Penn State face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional well-being. The university offers a variety of confidential services to help you through difficult times, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, online chats, and mental health screenings. These services are provided by staff who welcome all students and embrace a philosophy respectful of clients' cultural and religious backgrounds, and sensitive to differences in race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (814) 863-0395
Penn State Crisis Line (24 hours/7 days/week) (877) 229-6400
Crisis Text Line (24 hours/7 days/week) Text LIONS to 741741

[Mental Health Services](#)

Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities. Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. Every Penn State campus has an office for students with disabilities. The Student Disability Resources Web site provides [contact information for every Penn State campus](#). For further information, please visit the [Student Disability Resources Web site](#). In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, [participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation](#). If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your [campus's disability services office](#) will provide you with an accommodation letter. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. You must follow this process for every semester that you request accommodations. **Privacy Policies.** For information about Penn State's privacy statement and what it encompasses, please read their policy concerning [web privacy](#). Visit Penn State's [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA) page for information regarding its rules on governing the privacy of student educational records.

Accommodations for Military Personnel. Veterans and currently serving military personnel and/or spouses with unique circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill/duty requirements, disabilities, VA appointments, etc.) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to the instructor in the case that special arrangements need to be made.

Use of Trade Names. Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the World Campus, Outreach and Cooperative Extension, the College of Agricultural Sciences, or The Pennsylvania State University is implied.

Subject to Change Statement. Please note that this Course Syllabus is subject to change. Students are responsible for abiding by such changes.

Academic Integrity Statement. Academic integrity is a foundation for building integrity in all aspects of our adult lives. Academic integrity is about more than the words "don't cheat", though that is certainly part of it. Here are some reasons why academic integrity is so important

- Cheating in school leads to more cheating and lying later in life, in all contexts.

- Ethical decision-making takes a great deal of practice, and college is the best time to practice.
- Cheating is contagious.
- You'll be happier and more committed if our class is cheat-free.
- You'll learn more.

Examples: Here are some specific examples (though not a complete list) to help clarify how to honestly approach this class.

Honest behavior: Talking about course concepts with others is a great way to help each other learn but be sure to write up your assignments on your own. Be sure you can explain everything in your own words. All work submitted by you should be an honest reflection of what you yourself personally know and understand without assistance.

Dishonest behavior: Any action whereby a student fails to do all the assigned work on their own, including, but not limited to: submitting the written work of anyone else, getting answers from any other source other than your own thinking or course content, using unauthorized sources of information for any assignments or tests, or misrepresenting any information to the instructor.

Written assignments: Written work that you submit for this class may be analyzed with plagiarism detection software, so be sure that any writing you do for this course, no matter how short or long, is completely in your own words and cite your sources of information. No quoted text (using someone else's writing word for word) from a source may be used in your written assignments. Plagiarism is one of the most frequently committed violations of academic integrity in college classes.

Warning: Ignorance is not a valid defense for plagiarism. Educate yourself about what constitutes plagiarism, so you don't get burned. See <http://tlt.its.psu.edu/plagiarism>.

From Penn State's website: "Academic integrity includes a commitment not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, plagiarism, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others." Code of student conduct <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/conduct/codeofconduct> . Academic Integrity Guidelines for the College of Agricultural Sciences <http://agsci.psu.edu/students/resources/academic-integrity>.

Review System - Pennsylvania State University takes seriously the opinion of students in the evaluation of the effectiveness of instruction and has implemented the review process to gather student feedback. This course utilizes the "Student Rating of Teaching Effectiveness (SRTE)" system. You notified sometime during the last two weeks of class asking you to fill out a form at your convenience. We hope that you will be willing to give us your frank and constructive feedback so that we may instruct students even better in the future.

Course Schedule – ENT 202 – Spring 2022

	Date	Lecture and Exam Schedule
The materials of life	Jan 11	Introduction: What to expect? Syllabus, Introduction to Insects
	Jan 13	TA introduction, Introduction to Science
	Jan 18	Matter and Energy
	Jan 20	Life and Death on Earth
	Jan 25	Evolution
	Jan 27	DNA, RNA, Genes and Cells
	Feb 1	Plant life
	Feb 3	Animal lifecycles: growth and reproduction
	Feb 8	Review for Exam 1 (for material covered between Jan 11 to Feb 3)
	Feb 10	Exam 1 – testing center
Insects	Feb 15	Insect classification, morphology, and development
	Feb 17	Name the bug: The insect orders A
	Feb 22	Name the bug: The insect orders B
	Feb 24	Name the bug: The insect orders C
	Mar 1	Insect movement and orientation
	Mar 3	Insect diapause and migration – Erin Treanore
	Mar 8	Spring break – no classes
	Mar 10	Spring break – no classes
	Mar 15	Insect behavior
	Mar 17	Insect reproduction
	Mar 22	Insect communication
	Mar 24	Review for Exam 2 (for material covered between Feb 15 to Mar 22)
	Mar 29	Exam 2 – testing center
Insect-human interactions	Mar 31	Insects and human
	Apr 5	Agriculture and pest control
	Apr 7	Pollination
	Apr 12	Forensic Entomology, Insects as research models, edible insects
	Apr 14	Insects and diseases, Dr. Margarita Orlova
	Apr 19	Climate change
	Apr 21	Sustainability
	Apr 26	Review for Exam 3
	Apr 28	Exam 3 (for material covered between March 31 to Apr 21)