

**PubH 6100**  
**Field and laboratory methods in public health entomology**  
**Fall 2017**

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**Credits:** 2  
**Meeting Days:** Monday & Wednesday  
**Meeting Time:** 13:25-15:20  
**Meeting Place:** 1155 Mayo Building

**Instructor:** Jonathan Oliver, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Division of Environmental Health Sciences  
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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 15:30 – 17:00 and by appointment

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**I. Course Description**

Pathogens transmitted by arthropods, particularly mosquitoes and ticks, inflict human disease all over the world. These pathogens represent a broad diversity of persistent foes as well as emerging challengers. This course will provide an introduction to methods used in the field and laboratory for performing arthropod and pathogen surveillance, identification, and other investigations relevant to public health.

**II. Course Prerequisites**

None.

**III. Course Goals and Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Perform and explain basic surveillance methods for collecting ticks, mosquitoes, and other arthropods of public health significance
- Identify ticks and mosquitoes to the genus and/or species level

- Explain methods used in rearing various hematophagous arthropods
- Describe and identify insect and tick internal organ systems
- Explain methods for cultivating intracellular and extracellular pathogens in the lab
- Perform microscopy and various assays in a laboratory environment

#### IV. Methods of Instruction and Work Expectations

This course combines lectures, class discussions, fieldwork, and laboratory work to introduce students to the basics of vector arthropod/pathogen surveillance, identification, laboratory production, and testing. Five field trips and one trip to labs on the St. Paul campus are planned during class time, and one optional weekend field trip to Camp Ripley is possible given sufficient student interest.

A number of lab sessions will train student in skills practical to public health entomology. Other coursework will include brief field and lab write-ups in the form of lab notes (mostly compiled during class time), leading the class in a relevant journal article discussion (30-45 minutes), and a final, take home exam.

Student grades will be based on 200 points worth of assignments:

1. Class attendance and participation (87 points): Fieldwork, labs and lecture tend to build off one another so attendance and participation is important. Attendance and participation in each of the 29 scheduled classes is worth 3 points.
2. Lab write-ups (60 points): Brief (0.5 - 1 page) lab write-ups are required for each of the 15 field work and laboratory class sessions. Write-ups will be graded for accuracy and completeness and are worth 4 points each. Write-ups are due by Wednesday the week following the field or lab work.
3. Journal article discussion (18 points): Each student will select a primary literature journal article and lead a discussion on the topic during a designated class period. Students are expected to read all the articles and participate in each discussion.
4. Final exam (35 points): The final exam will be take home, open book, open note, and open internet but collaboration between students is not allowed.

#### V. Course Text and Readings

The required and optional readings are available through the UMN Library, which can be accessed through the course Moodle site.

##### Access Course Moodle Site

- go to [www.umn.edu](http://www.umn.edu) click on the “myU” button
- login with your University ID and password
- scroll to your course and click on the Moodle site link

#### VI. Course Outline/Weekly Schedule

Date	Schedule	Assignments
Wed. Sept. 6	Introduction to the topic, syllabus, laboratory safety, keeping a lab notebook	Online lab safety training; mandatory for lab work starting Wed. Oct. 11
Mon. Sept. 11	Lecture: Mosquito/arbovirus surveillance and collection methods	-
Wed. Sept. 13	Fieldwork: Mosquito collection in Sarita wetlands	Lab write-up (9/13) due 9/20 – 4 pts.
Mon. Sept. 18	Fieldwork: Collection of larval mosquitoes	Lab write-up (9/18) due 9/27 – 4 pts.
Wed. Sept. 20	Field trip: MMCD laboratory	Lab write-up (9/20) due 9/27 – 4 pts.
Mon. Sept. 25	Lecture: Tick surveillance and collection methods	-
Wed. Sept. 27	Fieldwork: Tick collection by dragging	Lab write-up (9/27) due 10/4 – 4 pts.
Mon. Oct. 2	Fieldwork: <i>Varroa</i> mite collection and honey bee late season health	Lab write-up (10/4) due 10/11 – 4 pts.

Wed. Oct. 4	Lecture: Honey bee's contribution to public health and bee health issues	-
Mon. Oct. 9	Lecture: Mite collection methods	-
Wed. Oct. 11	Lab: Collection and preservation of mites	Lab write-up (10/11) due 10/18 – 4 pts.
Mon. Oct. 16	Field trip (St. Paul Campus): Laboratory mosquito rearing	Lab write-up (10/16) due 10/25 – 4 pts.
Wed. Oct. 18	Field trip (Ecolab): Bedbug rearing	Lab write-up (10/18) due 10/25 – 4 pts.
Mon. Oct. 23	Lecture/lab: Dichotomous keys for insect identification/larval mosquito identification	Lab write-up (10/23) due 11/1 – 4 pts. Lab write-up (10/25) due 11/1 – 4 pts.
Wed. Oct. 25	Lab: Adult mosquito identification	
Mon. Oct. 30	Lecture: Insect/mosquito organ systems	-
Wed. Nov. 1	Lab: Adult and larval <i>Culex pipiens</i> mosquito dissection	Lab write-up (11/1) due 11/8 – 4 pts.
Mon. Nov. 6	Lecture/lab: Tick life stage and species identification	Lab write-up (11/6) due 11/15 – 4 pts.
Wed. Nov. 8	Lab: Tick identification	Lab write-up (11/8) due 11/15 – 4 pts.
Mon. Nov. 13	Lecture: Tick organ systems and immunofluorescence assay	-
Wed. Nov. 15	Lab: Tick dissection and immunofluorescence	Lab write-up (11/15) due 11/22 – 4 pts.
Mon. Nov. 20	Student-led journal article discussion	Read & present articles – 18 pts.
Wed. Nov. 22	Student-led journal article discussion	Read & present articles
Mon. Nov. 27	Student-led journal article discussion	Read & present articles
Wed. Nov. 29	Lecture/lab: Growing pathogens in vitro – <i>Anaplasma phagocytophilum</i> & <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	Lab write-up (11/29) due 12/6 – 4pts.
Mon. Dec. 4	Lab: Fluorescent and transmitted light microscopy	Lab write-up (12/4) due 12/13 – 4 pts.
Wed. Dec. 6	Lecture: Polymerase chain reaction	-
Mon. Dec. 11	Lecture: Other methods of pathogen detection	-
Wed. Dec. 13	Review	Take home final
Mon. Dec. 18	-	Take home final due – 35 pts.

## VII. Evaluation and Grading

The University utilizes plus and minus grading on a 4.000 cumulative grade point scale in accordance with the following:

- A 4.000 (188-200 points)  
Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements
- A- 3.667 (180-187 points)
- B+ 3.333 (174-179 points)
- B 3.000 (166-173 points)  
Represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements
- B- 2.667 (160-165 points)

- C+ 2.333 (154-159 points)
- C 2.000 (146-153 points)  
Represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect
- C- 1.667 (140-144 points)
- D+ 1.333 (130-139 points)
- D 1.000 (120-128 points)  
Represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements
- F 119 points or below. Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.
- S Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.

**For additional information, please refer to:**

<http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/GRADINGTRANSCRIPTS.html>.

**Late work**

Lab write-ups will be accepted late. One point from the maximum score of 4 points will be subtracted for each day late, not counting weekend days. Journal article discussion will be scheduled individually for each student in advance but times should be flexible given notice of expected absence. Because the only exam is the take home final, no exam make-up is planned.

**Course Evaluation**

The SPH will collect student course evaluations electronically using a software system called CourseEval: [www.sph.umn.edu/courseeval](http://www.sph.umn.edu/courseeval). The system will send email notifications to students when they can access and complete their course evaluations. Students who complete their course evaluations promptly will be able to access their final grades just as soon as the faculty member renders the grade in SPHGrades: [www.sph.umn.edu/grades](http://www.sph.umn.edu/grades). All students will have access to their final grades through OneStop two weeks after the last day of the semester regardless of whether they completed their course evaluation or not. Student feedback on course content and faculty teaching skills are an important means for improving our work. Please take the time to complete a course evaluation for each of the courses for which you are registered.

**Incomplete Contracts**

A grade of incomplete "I" shall be assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances (e.g., documented illness or hospitalization, death in family, etc.), the student was prevented from completing the work of the course on time. The assignment of an "I" requires that a contract be initiated and completed by the student before the last official day of class, and signed by both the student and instructor. If an incomplete is deemed appropriate by the instructor, the student in consultation with the instructor, will specify the time and manner in which the student will complete course requirements. Extension for completion of the work will not exceed one year (or earlier if designated by the student's college). For more information and to initiate an incomplete contract, students should go to SPHGrades at: [www.sph.umn.edu/grades](http://www.sph.umn.edu/grades).

**University of Minnesota Uniform Grading and Transcript Policy**

A link to the policy can be found at [onestop.umn.edu](http://onestop.umn.edu).

**VIII. Other Course Information and Policies**

**Grade Option Change** (if applicable):

For full-semester courses, students may change their grade option, if applicable, through the second week of the semester. Grade option change deadlines for other terms (i.e. summer and half-semester courses) can be found at [onestop.umn.edu](http://onestop.umn.edu).

**Course Withdrawal:**

Students should refer to the Refund and Drop/Add Deadlines for the particular term at [onestop.umn.edu](http://onestop.umn.edu) for information and deadlines for withdrawing from a course. As a courtesy, students should notify their instructor and, if applicable, advisor of their intent to withdraw.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course after the noted final deadline for a particular term must contact the School of Public Health Office of Admissions and Student Resources at [sph-ssc@umn.edu](mailto:sph-ssc@umn.edu) for further information.

**Student Conduct Code:**

The University seeks an environment that promotes academic achievement and integrity, that is protective of free inquiry, and that serves the educational mission of the University. Similarly, the University seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; that is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and that does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community.

As a student at the University you are expected adhere to Board of Regents Policy: *Student Conduct Code*. To review the Student Conduct Code, please see: [http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student\\_Conduct\\_Code.pdf](http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf).

Note that the conduct code specifically addresses disruptive classroom conduct, which means "engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach or student learning. The classroom extends to any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities."

**Use of Personal Electronic Devices in the Classroom:**

Using personal electronic devices in the classroom setting can hinder instruction and learning, not only for the student using the device but also for other students in the class. To this end, the University establishes the right of each faculty member to determine if and how personal electronic devices are allowed to be used in the classroom. For complete information, please reference: <http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html>.

**Scholastic Dishonesty:**

You are expected to do your own academic work and cite sources as necessary. Failing to do so is scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis. (Student Conduct Code: [http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student\\_Conduct\\_Code.pdf](http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf)) If it is determined that a student has cheated, he or she may be given an "F" or an "N" for the course, and may face additional sanctions from the University. For additional information, please see: <http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/INSTRUCTORRESP.html>.

The Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity has compiled a useful list of Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to scholastic dishonesty: <http://www1.umn.edu/oscai/integrity/student/index.html>. If you have additional questions, please clarify with your instructor for the course. Your instructor can respond to your specific questions regarding what would constitute scholastic dishonesty in the context of a particular class-e.g., whether collaboration on assignments is permitted, requirements and methods for citing sources, if electronic aids are permitted or prohibited during an exam.

**Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences:**

Students will not be penalized for absence during the semester due to unavoidable or legitimate circumstances. Such circumstances include verified illness, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, and religious observances. Such circumstances do not include voting in local, state, or national elections. For complete information, please see: <http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/MAKEUPWORK.html>.

**Appropriate Student Use of Class Notes and Course Materials:**

Taking notes is a means of recording information but more importantly of personally absorbing and integrating the educational experience. However, broadly disseminating class notes beyond the classroom community or accepting compensation for taking and distributing classroom notes undermines instructor interests in their intellectual work product while not substantially furthering instructor and student interests in effective learning. Such actions violate shared norms and standards of the academic community. For additional information, please see: <http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html>.

**Sexual Harassment:**

"Sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment in any University activity or program. Such behavior is not acceptable in the University setting. For additional information, please consult Board of Regents Policy: <http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/SexHarassment.pdf>

**Equity, Diversity, Equal Opportunity, and Affirmative Action:**

The University will provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs and facilities, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. For more information, please consult Board of Regents Policy: [http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Equity\\_Diversity\\_EO\\_AA.pdf](http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Equity_Diversity_EO_AA.pdf).

**Disability Accommodations:**

The University of Minnesota is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center Student Services is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact DRC at 612-626-1333 or [drc@umn.edu](mailto:drc@umn.edu) to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

If you are registered with DS and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, please contact your instructor as early in the semester as possible to discuss how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

For more information, please see the DS website, <https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/>.

**Mental Health and Stress Management:**

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and may reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Student Mental Health Website: <http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu>.

**The Office of Student Affairs at the University of Minnesota:**

The Office for Student Affairs provides services, programs, and facilities that advance student success, inspire students to make life-long positive contributions to society, promote an inclusive environment, and enrich the University of Minnesota community.

Units within the Office for Student Affairs include, the Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education, Boynton Health Service, Central Career Initiatives (CCE, CDes, CFANS), Leadership Education and Development – Undergraduate Programs (LEAD-UP), the Office for Fraternity and Sorority Life, the Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, the Office for Student Engagement, the Parent Program, Recreational Sports, Student and Community Relations, the Student Conflict Resolution Center, the Student Parent HELP Center, Student Unions & Activities, University Counseling & Consulting Services, and University Student Legal Service.

For more information, please see the Office of Student Affairs at <http://www.osa.umn.edu/index.html>.

**Academic Freedom and Responsibility: *for courses that do not involve students in research:***

Academic freedom is a cornerstone of the University. Within the scope and content of the course as defined by the instructor, it includes the freedom to discuss relevant matters in the classroom. Along with this freedom comes responsibility. Students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. Students are free to take reasoned exception to the views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.\*

**OR:**

**Academic Freedom and Responsibility, for courses that involve students in research**

Academic freedom is a cornerstone of the University. Within the scope and content of the course as defined by the instructor, it includes the freedom to discuss relevant matters in the classroom and conduct relevant research. Along with this freedom comes responsibility. Students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. Students are free to take reasoned exception to the views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.\* When conducting research, pertinent institutional approvals must be obtained and the research must be consistent with University policies.

Reports of concerns about academic freedom are taken seriously, and there are individuals and offices available for help. Contact the instructor, the Department Chair, your adviser, the associate dean of the college, (Dr Kristin Anderson, SPH Dean of Student Affairs), or the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs in the Office of the Provost.

*\* Language adapted from the American Association of University Professors "Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students".*

**Student Academic Success Services (SASS): <http://www.sass.umn.edu>:**

Students who wish to improve their academic performance may find assistance from Student Academic Support Services. While tutoring and advising are not offered, SASS provides resources such as individual consultations, workshops, and self-help materials.