

# Biology 364, Fall 2014

## Invertebrate Biology

**Text:** Pechenik J.A., *Biology of the Invertebrates*, 6th edition. I selected this text because it is concise and clearly written and I expect you to read the assigned chapters.

**Objectives:** This course is your introduction to most (>97%) of the animal kingdom. It is organized around 15 major higher invertebrate taxa. For each we will first learn the ground plan and then consider selected topics pertinent to the taxon. You can expect to learn about diversity, evolution, phylogeny, classification, anatomy, development, physiology, behavior, ecology, natural history, and biomechanics.

**Scientific article presentation:** The class will include four mini-symposia on various groups of animals. Each of them will consist of student presentations of original scientific articles. Each student will present one article during the semester. The first time you read an article it may appear to be “above your head.” So allocate sufficient time for your preparation. You should also google “how to read a scientific article” if you’ve never done this before.

**Examinations and Grading:** Grading will be based on three non-cumulative midterm exams (100 points each; the lowest of your three midterm exam grades will be dropped from your grade computation), the Final exam (100 points), a term paper and presentation (100 points), scientific article presentation (30 points), and 7 before- and in- class activities (10 points each). There is a total of 500 possible points and your grade is determined entirely by the number you accumulate (see below). Examinations must be taken when scheduled. Excused absences for exams will be granted only for serious illness explained **in writing** by a physician.

**The term paper** will be a 1500 word essay (+/- 100 words, not including the bibliography) on your favorite group of invertebrates. The topic for this project should be discussed with the instructor by Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Due date for the paper is Wednesday December 3<sup>rd</sup>.** There is a general tendency for various disasters to strike right before the due date. To make sure that you submit your paper on time, start working on it early. I will accept no excuses for the late submission, which will be penalized by reducing your paper grade by 1/3 of a point (e.g., from A to A-) for each day your paper is delayed. At least **five** references to **peer-reviewed** sources should be used and stated in the text. Please see me if you do not know what peer-review means.

Class activities will include discussions of original scientific literature, small quizzes based on the assigned readings, and problem solving exercises. **There will be no make-ups for class activities** as part of the purpose is to monitor class participation and presence.

### Criteria for Letter Grades:

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
94.0-100	A	77.0-80.9	B-	60.0-63.9	D+
90.0-93.9	A-	73.0-76.9	C+	55.0-59.9	D
86.0-89.9	B+	68.0-72.9	C	50.0-54.9	D-
81.0-85.9	B	64.0-67.9	C-	0.0-49.9	F

**Academic Integrity:** Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses and won't be tolerated. Do not copy other people's work (unless you present it as a direct quote). This includes sections of published/on-line articles or previous reports. If you have any questions about this policy, please see me before problems arise. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. <http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html>.

**Disability Accommodation:** Iowa State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Sect 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please contact the instructor to set up a meeting within the first two weeks of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your need. Before meeting with the instructor, you will need to obtain a SAAR form

with recommendations for accommodations from the [Disability Resources Office](#), located in Room 1076 on the main floor of the Student Services Building. Their telephone number is 515-294-7220 or email [disabilityresources@iastate.edu](mailto:disabilityresources@iastate.edu). Retroactive requests for accommodations will not be honored.

**Harassment and Discrimination:** Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a U.S. veteran. Any student who has concerns about such behavior should contact his/her instructor, [Student Assistance](#) at 515-294-1020 or email [dso-sas@iastate.edu](mailto:dso-sas@iastate.edu), or the [Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance](#) at 515-294-7612.

**Religious Accommodation:** If an academic or work requirement conflicts with your religious practices and/or observances, you may request reasonable accommodations. Your request must be in writing, and your instructor or supervisor will review the request. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the [Dean of Students Office](#) or the [Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance](#).

**Contact Information:** If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email [academicissues@iastate.edu](mailto:academicissues@iastate.edu).