

ENTOMOLOGY

COURSE NUMBER: BIO 562/662

CREDIT HOURS: 4

Summer Station course

There are approximately 1 million described species of insects, and this number may go considerably higher once tropical ecosystems are better studied. Insects fill just about every ecological niche: decomposers, herbivores, predators, pollinators, etc. Insects also are vectors of a large variety of diseases and destroyers of human crops.

In this course, Students become acquainted with about 200 Families of insects living in the terrestrial and aquatic habitats of the Midwest along with biotic and abiotic factors underlying their distribution, abundance, and dynamics. Each student conducts a small field project on some aspect of insect ecology, behavior, or natural history. Lectures cover general insect systematics and classification, life histories, and preservation techniques. Lectures cover the each of the insect Orders along with their specific life histories, ecology, and natural histories. Field experiences emphasize habitats diversity, collection techniques and observations of natural history and ecology.

Laboratory experiences focus on identification, preservation, and behavior.

