Aquatic Entomology  
Brigham Young University  
Biology 541  
Fall 2012  

Instructor: Dr. C. Riley Nelson, Widtsoe Building 123, 801-422-1345, rileynelson@byu.edu  
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:00 - 2:00 pm. I'm available at other times, by appointment only.  

Course objective: I will instill in you an appreciation for the diversity of the living aquatic insect world. This world is amazing. Some of you have lost a sense of wonder for the interesting things in the natural world. I hope to rebuild that sense of wonder. I hope these ideas will help you make the world a better place each day. We must become better stewards of the Earth and its living inhabitants. Of secondary importance, but important still, is that you will understand all of aquatic biology better for our efforts.  

Lecture, laboratory: Tuesday 2:00 pm – 4:50 pm and Thursday 4:00-6:00pm in the Nelson Lab 123 WIDB. Attendance at each class meeting is absolutely required; random checks on presence may be made during the semester.  

Textbooks:  
Nelson, C. R. 2006. Freshwater Aquatic Invertebrate Identification Guide. Center for Instructional Design, Brigham Young University, Provo Utah, USA.  

Examinations: Tests will be short answer, drawings, and essays. They will be administered during regularly scheduled laboratory times only. Almost all material for tests will come from lecture and laboratory activities and my determination of your synthesis of these lecture ideas. Be prepared to analyze new situations using material covered. The textbook is excellent. I read the text to prepare my lectures and laboratories. You should read it before class to prepare you for the lecture. The text is encyclopedic and presents, much more material than I can cover in each lecture. I will give tests based on the text material I cover in the lectures. The first two tests will generally cover only the new material for that segment. The final examination will be comprehensive. In addition to the major tests, I will give quizzes at the beginning of laboratory periods, especially during the identification and keying part of the course. Take all tests! No makeup tests will be given.
Field Trips: Working in streams, ponds and lakes is a major portion of this course. Two of these trips may cover three continuous days, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Arrange your schedules to attend these trips, to the Beaver Dam Wash in the Mohave Desert at Lytle Preserve and possibly to Island Park, Idaho. Other trips will be taken during laboratory times. All trips are absolutely required. Extensive field notes are required for all collecting trips.

Grading: I will determine final grades using the following table:

- Field Notebook .......................................................... 10%
- Quizzes ................................................................. 5%
- Test One ................................................................. 5%
- Test Two ................................................................. 10%
- Final ....................................................................... 10%
- Identification Guides.................................................. 10%
- Aquatic Insect Survey and Biomonitoring Report........ 15%
- Aquatic Insect Collection........................................... 30%

Details of the three major assignments are given elsewhere. In a class this size, and from my past experiences teaching this and similar courses, the average for each test will be about 85%, high. I do not intend to adjust a frequency curve for the class. If all students get above 93%, then each student will get an A grade. I do not expect this to happen so I will generally follow this design:

- 93-100% .................A
- 90-92% ..................A-
- 88-89% ..................B+
- 83-87% .................B
- 80-82% ..................B-
- 78-79% ..................C+
- 73-77% ..................C
- 70-72% ..................C-
- 68-69% ..................D+
- 63-67% ..................D
- 60-62% ..................D-
- Below 60% ...............E

I offer no opportunity for extra credit. Take tests and turn in assignments on time. I will not post grades. You can check with the University and associated websites for your final grade. Never assume that the “Blackboard” web page for this class is complete.

No cheating will be tolerated. Plagiarism is cheating. Obey the Honor Code.
No harassment, sexual or otherwise will be tolerated, between anyone in the class.

I will be having fun during this course, you should be too.