**PLSC 443/543 Turfgrass Entomology**

**First Spring Block Section (24 January to 11 March, 2022)**

*first Class Meeting will be 25 January 2022*

**Instructor:**

**Dr. Bill Klingeman**  
Ellington PSB 261  
Office hours: TBA, by appointment

Phone: (865) 974-7964  
E-mail: wklingem@utk.edu

**Course Schedule:**  
Tues. 1:10 – 2:25 pm, 142 Brehm Animal Sciences  
Thurs. 1:10 – 4:05 pm, 161 Brehm Animal Sciences

**Course Description:** Biological study and collection of arthropods that challenge healthy turf and sod maintenance. Review and discussion of sampling/monitoring strategies and decision-making guidelines to help manage turfgrass pests. A *Spring Block*, 2-credit course for Junior PS students.

**Course Value:** Exposure to content and pests presented during this course will provide you with a working disciplinary vocabulary, awareness of key resources and diagnostic aids, as well as career-relevant knowledge that turfgrass industry professionals expect turfgrass science program graduates to possess upon degree completion.

**Student Learning Objectives:** After completing PLSC 443/543*, students will have practical knowledge about insect pest management in turfgrass systems and can expect to be able to:

- Function in a professional manner as an entry level turf industry employee bringing basic knowledge and familiarity with insect pests in turfgrass systems
- Explain how environmental and cultural pressures, including temperature, insect pathogens, natural enemies and management practices, can influence seasonal growth and development of turf pest populations
- Discuss the available options and implement appropriate monitoring techniques to survey for key insect pests in turf systems
- Know and discuss the basic strategies required to design and implement an IPM program for turf pests

**Learning Environment:**  
Lectures are generally given in conjunction with image-rich PowerPoint presentations. Note-taking guides may assist in organizing pest information and lecture notes should be supplemented with relevant information available from on-reserve resources and lab materials. Discussion is actively encouraged. Contributions from students and class participants should emphasize critical thinking relative to the topics being presented and inter-relationships to other material learned during the course.

**Course Communications:**  
Unless expressly permitted, students are expected to please turn off cell phone ringtones and should refrain from text messaging. For in-person discussions, please contact me to schedule a visit to my office. I am generally available for 10-15 minutes after class and labs. Email is the preferred means of contact and replies will usually be made during business hours and within 24-48 hours. All correspondence from me will be sent to your UTK email address. Please make sure emails are written in a professional manner. Texted inquiries may not receive a response, particularly outside university business hours and during academic closures. For technical issues, contact the OIT HelpDesk via phone (865) 974-9900 or online at [http://help.utk.edu](http://help.utk.edu/).
How to Be Successful in this Course:

Students are expected to:

- Be responsible for knowing how to use CANVAS & how to submit assignments on the site.
- Be prepared for all classes and labs; preparation includes pre-printing relevant lab worksheets and diagnostic resources; undertaking recommended readings
- Be respectful of others and yourself
- Abide by the UT Honor Code
- Actively contribute to learning activities (including discussion) in class

The Instructor is expected to:

- Be prepared for all classes and labs
- Evaluate all fairly and equally
- Be respectful of all students
- Create and facilitate meaningful discussion and learning activities
- Behave according to University codes of conduct

Recommended Text & Readings (On Reserve in Pendergrass Library):

*Destructive Turfgrass Insects: Biology, Diagnosis & Control*, 1st edition

Recommended (Optional) Resources:


Lecture Topics: *(Topic order & content are subject to change during the semester)*

- Basic Principles: an introduction & overview to Entomology
- Life cycles & the concept of physiological time
- Management actions that influence arthropod populations
- Pesticides, safety & risk management
- Turfgrass Pest & Beneficial Insects: Feeding Guilds
  - Weevils, scarabs & white grubs
  - Lepidoptera & chewing pests
  - Homoptera, Hemiptera & Others *(Nuisance Pests & Beneficial Organisms)*
- Scouting, Monitoring & Thresholds: IPM for Turfgrass Pests

Course Requirements, Assessments and Evaluations

Attendance/Notes: **It is critical that you attend each class. Because there is no assigned textbook, all test material will be taken from class lectures, discussions and assigned readings. Students are responsible for obtaining notes from peers related to all content missed due to absence and illness. Please inform Dr. K ahead of classes and labs about anticipated/illness related absence.**
Grading and Performance Levels: You will ascend performance levels based on points accrued as a result of various activities. Points accrued to achieve each level cannot be lost. Career and professional expectations of ‘A grade’ students are high and achieving the highest levels is difficult. In fact, it may require you to seek opportunities to pursue additional Challenge Opportunities. Performance levels are regularly updated (weekly) and can be made available to you at a scheduled office appointment. The level structure is tied to your final grade as follows:

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<th>Points</th>
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<td>11</td>
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Performance Assessments A:
1 Team Exercise – 15 pts
6 or 7 MiniTest Quizzes – ~130 pts (approx. 22 pts each)
1 Final exam - 50 pts
Final exam practicum - 25 pts
Attendance/Discussion/Participatory Effort – 40 pts (-5 pts per unexcused absence)
Lab Participation & Worksheets – 60 pts (15 pts per lab)

TOTAL ASSIGNED POINTS ~320

* Graduate students who are enrolled in PS 543 will work with Dr. K to identify additional coursework and classroom exercises as well as continue on after the mini-term ends with directed readings from current literature. See Dr. K for details about these Graduate Level course expectations.

^ Make-up quizzes/exams will not be provided excepting extenuating circumstances.

Challenge Opportunities (for Supplemental Point Accrual): Challenge opportunities (see list in separate handout) are available for points from the start of the semester. Each challenge is graded as having been achieved or not. Unless time-restricted, most challenges can be turned in at any class period during the semester, up to the final Challenge Opportunity deadline.

Academic Integrity:
The University Honor Statement: “An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty, known simply as the university honor code. As students of the University, you pledge that you will neither knowingly give, nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming your own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

Therefore, academic honesty will apply in accordance with policies found in Hilltopics, the official student handbook of the University of Tennessee. It is available as a PDF document
Students must adhere to the principles and rules of the university and pursue academic work in a straightforward and truthful manner, free from deception of fraud.

We expect that: “An essential feature of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the university, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

University Civility Statement:
Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other’s well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus:
http://civility.utk.edu/.

Diversity Statement: Diversity enriches the educational experience by providing students with the opportunity to learn from individuals who differ from themselves. Diversity strengthens communities and the workplace by preparing students for citizenship in an increasingly complex, pluralistic society, and by fostering mutual respect and teamwork.

Disability Services: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Student Disability Services in Dunford Hall, at 865-974-6087, or by video relay at, 865-622-6566, to coordinate reasonable academic accommodations.

Your Role in Improving Teaching and Learning through Course Assessment:
At UT, it is our collective responsibility to improve the state of teaching and learning. During the semester, you may be requested to assess aspects of this course either during class or at the completion of the class. You are encouraged to respond to these various forms of assessment as a means of continuing to improve the quality of the UT learning experience.

Key Campus Resources for Students:
- Center for Career Development (Career counseling and resources; HIRE-A-VOL job search system)
- Course Catalogs (Listing of academic programs, courses, and policies)
- Hilltopics (Campus and academic policies, procedures and standards of conduct)
- OIT HelpDesk (865) 974-9900
- Schedule of Classes/Timetable
- Student Health Center (visit the site for a list of services)
- Student Success Center (Academic support resources)
- Undergraduate Academic Advising (Advising resources, course requirements, and major guides)
- University Libraries (Access to library resources, databases, course reserves, and services)

The instructor reserves the right to revise, alter or amend this syllabus as necessary. Students will be notified in writing / email of any such changes.