Aquatic Entomology  
FISH 693, BIOL 693; Fall 2008

Credits: 2, Letter grade  
Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission from instructor  
Location: 207 Irving I  
Meeting time: Lecture 1-1:50p, Lab 2-5pm

Instructor information: Mark Wipfli, IAB  
Office location: 138 Arctic Health  
Office hours: T, R, 10-11am or by appt.  
Telephone: 474-6654  
Email: mark.wipfli@uaf.edu

Course readings/materials: An Introduction to the Aquatic Insects of North America by Merritt and Cummins.

Supplementary readings: Occasionally as assigned.

Course description: 693 Aquatic Entomology 2 credit. Course content will focus on aquatic invertebrate taxonomy and ecology of Alaska streams and wetlands. There will be three organized field trips during the first four weeks of the semester where students will learn field techniques for locating and collecting aquatic invertebrates – one trip to wetland/pond habitats and two to stream/river habitats – within one hour of the Fairbanks campus. The remaining meetings will involve brief overviews of the ecology and the identification of the important groups of aquatic invertebrates. Students will be required to develop their own aquatic invertebrate collection. Letter grades will be based on completeness and accuracy of their collections, plus lab and lecture mid-term and final exams.

Course goals: Provide students with a solid working knowledge of the taxonomy (field and lab IDs to the Family level) and ecology of aquatic (wetland and stream) invertebrates, with special emphasis on invertebrates of Alaska systems.

Instructional methods: One hour of lecture, three hours laboratory each week. Laboratory meetings will involve field trips, biological collections and taxonomy. Lectures before each lab period will teach key taxonomic characteristics and invertebrate ecology. There will be a $75/student lab fee charge to cover rental vehicle costs and insurance for field trips.

Course calendar: There will be one 1-hr lecture and one 3-hr lab per week. The first four sessions of the term (weeks 1-4) will consist of an introductory session, plus three field trips where students will be taught invertebrate collecting techniques, including actual collections at nearby field sites. The rest of the term students will learn to identify aquatic invertebrates to the Family level.

Course policies: Attendance is required.

Evaluation: Mid-term and final exams will be given in both lecture and lab. Letter grade will be determined from field collections (20%), and scores on four exams (20% each). Grading will be A+ ≥95%, A 92-94%, A- 90-91%, B+ 87-89%, B 84-86%, B- 80-83%, C+ 77-79%, C 74-76%, C- 70-73%, D+ 67-69%, D 64-66%, D- 60-63%, F <60%.

Support Services: Negotiated upon request.

Disabilities Services: The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. The instructor will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (203 WHIT, 474-7043) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.