

LECTURE NOTES #1

Description of the course structure

What are insects and Why They Matter? an Introduction to Insect diversity.

Student learning objectives:

- Key insect characters
- Discuss factors that explain why insects have been so successful;
- Cite evidence that supports the claim that insects are the dominant animal life on earth;

Required reading: Pedigo and Rice (P &R) Chapter 1

Ecology: Study of interaction among biotic and abiotic components of the environment

Evolution: Cumulative inheritable change through time resulting in new traits

Co-evolution: Occurs when ecologically interdependent species influence evolution of one-another resulting in successive changes affecting their interactions

What traits characterize insects?

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

Why insects are so successful through the course of evolution?

Structural traits

- Exoskeleton; describe how: _____
- Small size; describe: _____
- Flight: describe: _____

Biological and Ecological traits

- Reproductive capacity; due to 1) _____, 2) _____
- Metamorphosis; describe how metamorphosis can contribute to insect success: