

BIO 318 (1): Invertebrate Zoology

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Spring 2014

Joseph Pawlik

16

Students Enrolled



15

Students Responded



93.75%

Response Rate

Summative**Formative****Quantitative****Qualitative****Segment Comparison**

Comments

- Dr. Pawlik is absolutely phenomenal. I wish that it was possible to take this course and only this course for a semester. The amount of study required for this course is impressive but the material is covered thoroughly in lecture. He has high expectations for success in this course but tells you at the beginning that the course is difficult. If the student is able to study and keep up with the work, the amount of material you learn from this one course is incredible. I would definitely recommend all marine biology majors take this course with Dr. Pawlik.
- Even though this was an extremely difficult course, it was still fun. Reading the textbook is somewhat helpful, some of the information found in the textbook was not covered in the course and some of the information in lab was not in the textbook. Really enjoyed Dr. Pawlik's demonstrations of certain organisms in class. The lab is interesting as well and you can do it on your own time.
- great course but it is definitely tough. I would recommend this class only if you really want to work and study.
- I really did not want to take this course... I heard it was a lot of work, and that it was very difficult. Both those things turned out to be true, but I actually really enjoyed the class. Professor Pawlik made it easy to understand, and his tests were extremely fair. If you go to class, pay attention, and take notes, you'll do fine. I'm actually really interested in invertebrates now! Also, I found the textbook to be very useful. I really only used it to help study for exams, but I thought it really made everything easier to understand.
- I will attempt to be transparent and concise, and for the most part, avoid style and creativity. The first paragraph after this one will be praises, the second will be criticisms. Dr. Pawlik is an excellent teacher and his enthusiasm invariably shines during every class. He is energetic and genuinely glad to answer questions inside and outside of class. His enjoyment of both learning and teaching zoology is palpable and contagious; his understanding of it at this point is obviously enconced into his DNA but he doesn't get bored with it like some teachers; he's always happy to help and provide feedback which is very refreshing. Invertebrate Zoology is very challenging but he does a great job of showing and not telling, both in lecture and lab, the beauty, peculiarity, and brutality of invertebrate animals. Each topic explores the phylogeny, taxonomy, environment, morphology, reproduction, and trophic mode of several phyla and there is always a test right around the corner (6 lecture tests including the final) to make sure you were paying close attention to everything. There is an abundance of incredibly cool information in this course and Dr. Pawlik explains it very well which is important because the lives and behaviors of these animals are far beyond the layman's grasp and can often be weirder than the most creative sci-fi author's imagination on fun drugs. He also does a great job of putting the material into perspective by incorporating stories from his graduate work/personal experience, the history of the discovery of the organisms in question, discussing how it all fits into geologic time, and even touching on a surprising amount of etymology. His unique perspective regarding how vibrant of a field this is is also heavily emphasized; scarcely anything learned in this course was even known to human beings before the nineteenth century. The labs are also very cool and challenging but doing them at your own pace between Monday and Wednesday helps. The principle criticism I have for this course is that it is largely a "study and memorize" course. The wider ecological perspective of how organisms interact with each other and their environment to form a much larger picture is notably absent when compared to BIO 362-Marine Biology and BIO 366-Ecology. Even more unfortunately absent in my opinion is any emphasis on problem solving, or moreover, the way science is done (i.e. experiment, hypothesis testing, theory, etc.), which are also heavily emphasized in BIO 362 and BIO 366. The exception to this would be some of the short answer questions that appear on tests. In this way, it can easily be said that this course is entirely oriented toward the undergraduate level, but if you are interested in graduate school, Dr. Pawlik does point out several topics he covers that appear on the GRE. Notebook check grades for this course are strictly binary (you either did it or you didn't) and lab practicals are extremely hard because there is so much material to commit to memory. Overall, I felt this course was for naturalists who appreciate a more categorical rather than thematic approach to the understanding of nature. In other words, the emphasis is on the trees, not the forest. If you're an animal nerd who just wants to know everything you possibly can about invertebrates, you have to take this course. There's more information in this course than you could possibly ever hope to carry around in your head after it's over, it's all incredibly fascinating, and whatever you may think, Dr. Pawlik is a bigger nerd than you are and he is really fun to be around.
- I would definitely recommend this course and I felt like I couldn't leave UNCW as a Marine Bio major without taking it!
- insane amount of work compared to other courses required. lab practical in ridiculous. everything in the class is very closely related to marine bio so i don't understand why every marine bio student doesn't have to take it.
- This course is VERY difficult but you learn to appreciate it. I was completely against taking this course when I was told that I had to take it but I have come to love the class. I am not a huge fan of Invertebrates but I can definitely appreciate them now that I have taken this course. You will have to work hard and study a lot in this class. It is structured in a way that will make you learn unless you do absolutely nothing at all. Dr. Pawlik is a great instructor who really knows his material and wants students to learn the importance of invertebrates. He is a great teacher even if you are not particularly interested in invertebrates.
- This has been an awesome class. Thank you very much!!!
- Yes, the class is difficult, but Dr. Pawlik uses the time he has to teach a lot of material. It seems like way too much at times, but it really is interesting information. I have learned a lot about invertebrate zoology. I think his grading system is pretty fair. The only thing I would change about his grading system is to have a way that we could actually know where we stand grade-wise throughout the semester. He leaves it to us to calculate our grades and sometimes it is a guessing game as to what grade we actually made on an exam.