LECTURE TEXT: None. Readings will be taken from recent journals and will be distributed in class.

Goals of the course: To give the students an understanding of the evolution of parasites, the influence of parasitic diseases upon human history, as well as ecological, physiological, and immunological interactions between parasites and their hosts. Examples will be taken from recent peer-reviewed literature.

Course changes: Due to unforeseen circumstances, such as (but not limited to) hurricanes, professional travel, illness and family emergencies, there may be changes to the course requirements as stated in this syllabus. You will be notified of such changes either in lecture or on my website.

Students with disabilities: In accord with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations.

Format: Generally topics will be introduced with one or more lectures by the instructor on the subject following which there will be a discussion of readings. Discussions will be informal, but students will be expected to demonstrate that they have read ALL the assignments. As graduate students you will be expected to make thoughtful comments on all papers; thus, you do not need to agree with all the conclusions of the authors. The dates of the written assignments will be announced in class.

Grading:

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<th>Course Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Exam</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Exam</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final (comprehensive)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Assignment #1</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Assignment #2</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
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100%

The cutoff point for an "A" will be 90% of the total points in the class,"B" will be 80%, "C" will be 60%, and "D" will be 50%. No extra-credit will be given.
Discussion: The discussion component comprises 15% of your grade. Since one cannot make oral contributions if one is not present, attendance will be noted in those class periods wherein topics will be discussed. In the past, students who missed a number of class meetings or who did not indicate that they had read and thought about the material received lower grades than peers with comparable exam scores.

Examination Dates:

February 13, 2008 Wednesday First Test
March 20, 2008 Wednesday Second Test
April 30, 2008 (6:00 P.M.) Monday Final Exam

Web Notes: During the semester, I will post lecture notes, announcements, test results, and other course-related information on my web-page which is http://www.southalabama.edu/biology/faculty/obrien/teaching/bly533/533.html You can also get there from the Website of the Department of Biology at http://www.southalabama.edu/biology/ click on the sequence of buttons “Faculty”, “O’Brien, Jack”, “Courses Taught”, and then “Topics in Parasitology; BLY 533 ”.

I recommend bringing a hardcopy of my lecture notes to class in order to minimize mindless copying of information. The acquisition of my lectures is not meant to be a substitution for coming to lecture. Be forewarned that some test questions will utilize information that was discussed only in lecture. For example, I may include information given in response to a question in lecture or lectures may have been modified after the webnotes were posted.

Warning: Since many graduate students have not taken a course in parasitology when they were undergraduates, I have not made parasitology a requirement for this course. The course is, however, a graduate course and I will assume that students have an understanding of the fundamental principles of biology. These include evolution, physiology, immunology, vertebrate and invertebrate anatomy as well as ecology There have been students who were unprepared in the subject matter, but enrolled in this class because it was offered at a time that fit their schedule. If you do not have a good background in biology [such as offered in BLY 121 & 122 (= General Biology I & II)], you should reconsider taking this course.

Exams: Each lecture exam will consist of questions covering the material covered in lecture. Lecture exams will be given Monday 2/6/06 and Monday 3/27/06. Tests will contain a variety of questions types including multiple-choice and essays. The final exam will count 25% of the grade and will be comprehensive for all material presented this semester in lecture.

Make-up exams will only be given for a DOCUMENTED excused absence as defined in the University Undergraduate Bulletin. University functions which absolutely require your presence must be approved in advance by me following a written request from a university official. Documentation of excused absences for exams must be presented to me immediately after the absence.
Pet Peeves: I will ask students to leave lecture who, in my opinion, are either being disruptive or disrespectful to the rest of us. The category “disruptive” includes loud talking, audio (not vibration) cell phone alarms, cell phone conversations, and noisy children. Quiet, well behaved children are welcome. In terms of “respect” I expect that when I am lecturing, people in the room will not be reading newspapers or books, grading homework, or balancing checkbooks. I do not judge eating, drinking, or entering and/or leaving during lecture as disruptive or disrespectful if these activities are done quietly.

Academic misconduct (i.e. cheating): Any student who gives and/or receives help not available to all other students during an examination will receive a grade of 0 (zero) for that test or the grade of F for the course as a whole. Since you will only require pencils & erasers in your possession during an exam, you will asked to leave all personal items such as notebooks, backpacks, papers, books, purses, etc. in the front. POSSESSION of a CELL PHONE, a “palm pilot,” an electronic device that can receive and/or store information, lecture or “crib-sheet” notes on or near a person (such as on the floor) during an exam will be considered academic misconduct. The judgment of what behavior is inappropriate is at the discretion of the lecturer.

All reports and your independent research paper are to be completed independently – the raw data is the only material to be shared. Plagiarism can take many forms, be aware that the following items are considered plagiarism (Wilhoit 1994):

- Buying a paper from a service or obtaining one over the web
- Turning in another individual’s work as your own
- Copying material from a source text without proper acknowledgment or quotations
- Paraphrasing material from a source text without proper acknowledgment

This list and additional information can be found in the following reference: Wilhoit, S. 1994. Helping students avoid plagiarism. College Teaching 42:161-164.

Please review the student Academic Conduct Policy found in the USA student handbook, The Lowdown. Evidence of plagiarism in this class can result in a grade of 0 (zero) for that assignment or the grade of F for the course as a whole.