Do we care about spineless animals?
Invertebrates outnumber us.

- At least 97% of all animal species are invertebrates.
- Nearly two thirds of animal biomass is in invertebrates.
- Most invertebrates remain poorly studied.

Invertebrates are of value to ecosystems and people.

- reef building and habitat
- water filtration
- nutrient recycling
- human food
- medical resources
- other commodities
Invertebrates don’t need our permission to be cool.
Invertebrate Zoology Course Topics

• material will be organized by what we will see in the field with interesting, easy-to-understand animals first
  ▪ segmented worms first, sponges last

• topics for each group include:
  ▪ higher taxonomy and evolution
  ▪ anatomy
  ▪ physiology
  ▪ reproduction and life cycles
  ▪ important ecological and human interactions
Course Activities

- 8-hour days, three days a week
- lecture, labs, and field work every day
- quizzes once a week, midterm after Week 4, final exam at the end
- part of the grade will be based on a lab notebook
- no term papers (except for BI 551)
Will I have to touch invertebrates?

• Oh, yes.
Field Trips in Invertebrate Zoology

• Marine animals are in the marine environment, which is wet.
  • Also, cold, slippery, salty, and rocky or muddy. And wet.

• We will go into the field every day.

• Low tide is usually early in the morning.
  • Early in the morning.

• Good foot gear is essential.
  • Rubber boots are best, neoprene shoes are okay.
  • No open-toe footwear.

It isn’t necessary to cover your whole body with rubber, but you can if you are into that.
Three reasons not to go barefoot in the intertidal.

- Barnacles turn every rock into a cluster of spikes.
- Crabs lurk in the seaweed.
- Sea urchins are designed to poke things.

But they are still very cool animals!
• Drawing is a proven way to sharpen your observation skills, so you will be drawing every day.
• No artistic talent is necessary, and assistance is available.
• Some labs will involve specific exercises or dissections.
Oregon Institute of Marine Biology

• You will live and study at a marine biology station.

• **Charleston, Oregon** is a working coastal community.
  - Some shops are in town, others are a 20-minute drive.
  - Medical services are available locally.

• Summers at OIMB are windy, often foggy, but rarely rainy.
  - No matter how warm it gets elsewhere, it stays cool at OIMB.

• If friends or family comes to visit, there are many tourist opportunities.
I hope to see you here!