PLS 329 Soil Science Lab

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2014

Instructor: Curtis A. Jones, Ph.D
Assistant Professor – Plant and Soil Science
Office Location: AgIT 145
Office Hours: 9:00 am – 10:50 am Monday, Wednesday and Friday
10:00 am – 10:50 Tuesday and Thrusday
Or by appointment
Office Phone: (903) 886-5354
Office Fax: (903) 886-5990
University Email Address: curtis.jones@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required: Introduction to Soil Science. 4th Edition. Harp, Lemus, Herschler, Hathcoat.

Course Description:

Origin, formation, fertility and management of soils. Prerequisites PLS 115 (PLS 1307) or 1415, Chem 1407 or 1411.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Introduce students to the basic concepts of soil science.

2. Develop the students' understanding and comprehension of the Web Soil Survey.

3. Develop the students' understanding and comprehension of soil sampling, soil testing procedures and results.

4. Develop the students' appreciation for the complexity and importance of soils in today's world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Exams: MidTerm 100 point exams, one 200 point final exam

Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, & 4
Assessment: Vocabulary, Multiple Choice, ID, True/False, and Short Answer Exam

Quizes: Ten 10 point quizzes

Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, & 4
Assessment: Vocabulary, Multiple Choice, True/False, and Short Answer Exam

Presentation: Soil Presentation 100 pts

Student Learning Outcomes: 1 & 4
Assessment: Graded according to the presentation rubric

Other important Dates

September 1, 2014 Labor day
October 30, 2014 Last day to Q drop
November 27-28 Thanksgiving holiday
December 8 - 12 Finals Week

Grading

Midterm	100 points
Quizes (10)	100 points
Participation and attendance	100 points
Lab Reports	100 points
Presentation	100 points
Final Exam	200 points

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A	90% or greater =
B	80 to 89.99% =
C	70 to 79.99% =
D	60 to 69.99% =
F	< 60% =

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

To be successful in the course, you will be provided access to university computers and facilities. The following items are available on university computers for your use.

1. Access to T: drive
2. MS Word
3. MS PowerPoint

These items will be helpful for you, should you need to work at home.

1. Flash drive
2. MS Office or compatible software
3. High-speed internet for access to Web Soil Survey at home.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

You may bring drinks to class. Please finish any meals before class begins. The use of tobacco products during class time is strictly prohibited.

Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Copying of others' work, use of disallowed material on exams, plagiarism in assignments or cheating in any other form as defined by the instructor will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Multiple infractions will result in a grade of 'F' for the course and possible expulsion.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services

Student Conduct

Students are expected to respect the rights of others in the class. Cell phones and other electronic equipment should be turned off prior to the beginning of class. Use of these items during class time, or any other unwarranted classroom disruption, will result in your immediate excusal from class for the remainder of the period.

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).*