



## PLS 329 Soil Science Lab

### COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer 2015

**Instructor:** Curtis A. Jones, Ph.D  
Assistant Professor – Agronomy  
**Office Location:** AgIT 145  
**Office Hours:** 10:00 am – 10:50 am Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
10:00 am – 10:50 Tuesday and Thursday  
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. 4<sup>th</sup> 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

Quizzes: 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

### Testing Dates

March 9, 11, 2015 Midterm

May 4, 6, 2015 Final

Dates are subject to change.

### Other important Dates

February 5, 2015 Last Day to drop with 100% refund

February 6, 2015 Last day for Graduation Application

March 16 – 20, 2015 Spring Break

April 24, 2015 Last day to drop with a Q

May 11 – 15, 2015 Finals Week

### Grading

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

A 90% or greater =

B 80 to 89.99% =

C 70 to 79.99% =

D 60 to 69.99% =

F < 60% =

<b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS</b>
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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.

<b>COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES</b>
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### **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@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.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*).