



## PLS 309 Soil Science

### COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2016

**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  
12:15 pm – 12:50 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:* The Nature and Properties of Soils, 14<sup>th</sup> ed. Brady and Weil

#### 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: Four 150 point exams, one 200 point final exam

Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, & 4

Assessment: Vocabulary, Multiple Choice, 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 Order Presentation 100 pts

Student Learning Outcomes: 1 & 4

Assessment: Graded according to the presentation rubric

## Grading

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Exams (4)                    | 600 points |
| Quizzes (10)                 | 100 points |
| Participation and attendance | 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% =          |

|                                |
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| <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.

## 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**  
**Gees Library 132**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**  
**Fax (903) 468-8148**  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto: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*).

## TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

## Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so.

Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus

document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is soil?
2. What is soil used for.
3. What lives in soil?
4. How do you take a soil sample?
5. What are the 3 primary soil particles? List and describe each.
6. What are the plant essential nutrients?