

PLS 309 Soil Science Course Syllabus Summer 2 2022

Curtis Jones, Ph.D.

Curtis.Jones@tamuc.edu

Office: Ag/IT 232

Office Hours: MW 8 am - 5 pm, or by appointment

Phone: (903) 886-5354

Fax: (903) 886-5990

Course Description

Origin, formation, fertility and management of soils.
Prerequisites PLS 115, 1415 and Chem 1405 or 1411.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to describe the various mineral and organic components of soils, including how changes in various quantities affect soil physical and chemical properties.
 2. Students will understand pedogenesis and how different parent materials create soils with varying properties.
 3. Students will understand water retention and movement in soils, especially as it relates to plant water availability.
 4. Students will develop a basic understanding of soil chemistry, including pH and CEC, especially how they relate to nutrient availability and, when feasible, adjustments, such as liming, that can improve conditions for plant growth.
 5. Students will develop an introductory understanding of soil taxonomy, including the favorable traits and limitations of the various soil orders.
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Textbook(s)

Optional: The Nature and Properties of Soils, 14th Ed.-- Brady and Weil
Prentice Hall (12th or 13th edition is acceptable)

Week 1 - Introduction, Soil Texture, Bulk Density

Week 2 - Pedogenesis, Soil Water

Week 3 - Soil pH, Soil CEC

Week 4 - Liming and Fert, Soil Surveys, Soil Taxonomy

Week 5 - Final Exam

Grading Policy

40%	Section overviews
60%	Assignments/Discussion Participati
10%	Final Exam
A	90%+
B	80-89.9
C	70-79.9
D	60-69%
F	<60%

Course Policies and Procedures

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.

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

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).
