



## **PLS 329 Soil Science Laboratory**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I 2023

Instructor: Derald Harp, Professor

Office Location: PSC 103

Office Hours: 9 am, 1 pm, and 4 pm, MTWR

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### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook: Soil Science Laboratory Manual, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Derald A. Harp, Curtis Jones, and Rocky Lemus

Course Description

Laboratory techniques to determine soil physical and chemical properties related to plant growth. Prerequisites: PLS 1307 or 1315, and Chem 1305 or 1311

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will be able to use laboratory techniques to determine soil physical properties, including texture, bulk density, particle density, and porosity;
2. Students will be able to determine soil chemical properties, including pH, electrical conductivity, cation exchange capacity, and macronutrient levels;
3. Students will be able to use soil surveys and laboratory techniques to identify characteristics of an unknown soil sample.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## GRADING

500 points	Lab Reports
200 points	Soil Analysis Project
A	630+
B	560-629.9
C	490-559.9
D	420-489.9
F	<420

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

### Meeting 1 – June 9 (morning)

#### *Safety*

- Chapter 1

#### *Collect Soil Samples*

#### *Soil Texture*

- Chapter 4
- Lab Report 1

#### *Bulk Density / Particle Density*

- Chapter 5
- Lab Report 2

### Meeting 2 – June 9 (afternoon)

#### *Soil Water*

- Chapter 6
- Lab Report 2

#### *Soil pH and EC*

- Chapters 8 and 9
- Lab Report 3

#### *Soil Surveys*

- Chapter 3
- None

### Meeting 3 – June 23 (morning)

#### *Finish Bulk Density*

#### *Finish Soil Water*

#### *Soil Organic Matter*

- Chapter 7
- Lab Report 4

#### *Soil Nutrition ( $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ , P)*

- Chapter 10
- Lab Report 5

### Meeting 4 – June 23 (afternoon)

- Soil presentations

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## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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# **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

## **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Copying of others' work, use of disallowed material on exams, plagiarism in assignments, use of AI software to complete 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.

Assignments are due as posted in the Course Schedule. Late penalties are assessed as follows:

- Assignments will be graded on the Monday following submission. Assignments not submitted will be recorded as a zero.
- Assignments are not accepted via email.
- The student must contact the professor immediately with a valid excuse for assignments not submitted to receive full credit. Valid excuses include severe illness, natural disasters, and unforeseen circumstances that prevent timely submission. Unforeseen circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- 1 day late - 10% penalty
- 2 days to 1 week late - 25% penalty
- More than 1 week late - 50% penalty
- No work other than the Final Exam will be accepted after July 1

## **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **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](#)

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<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>

## **Students with Disabilities-- 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- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

## **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.

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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.

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