



**PLS 329 Soil Science Lab  
Course Syllabus: Fall 2025**

**Instructor:** Lindsey Trinkle

**Office Location:** TBD

**Office Hours:** TBD

**Office Phone:** (903) 886-5329, (903) 886-5202

**Office Fax:** (903) 886-5990

**University Email Address:** [lindsey.trinkle@etamu.edu](mailto:lindsey.trinkle@etamu.edu) (Best for Communication)

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

Textbook(s) Required: Soil Science Laboratory Manual, 4th 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:**

Students will be able:

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

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Course Outline

Aug 25	Introduction / Lab Safety
Sept 1	<b>No Lab. Labor Day Holiday.</b>
Sept 8	Soil Sample Collection / Web Soil Survey PSC Address: 2069 Co Rd 4320, Campbell, TX 75422
Sept 15	Bulk Density
Sept 22	Particle Density
Sept 29	Soil Texture
Oct 6	Soil Water
Oct 13	Soil Organic Matter
Oct 20	Soil pH
Oct 27	Soil EC
Nov 3	Soil Nutrition (N)
Nov 10	Soil Nutrition (P&K)
Nov 17	Open Lab
Nov 24	<b>Lab Closed. Thanksgiving Holiday.</b>
Dec 1	Presentations

### Grading

1. Lab Reports 500 points
2. Student Project 200 points
3. Grade Assignment  
630+ = A  
560 - 629 = B  
490 - 559 = C  
420 - 489 = D  
Below 420 = F

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures:**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. 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.

Because this is a lab course, no food or drinks are permitted in the lab. 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. No electronic equipment, except calculators, will be allowed during exams. Violation of this will result in an immediate grade of '0' for the exam.

### **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**

## **“Campus Carry”**

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 (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). 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.