# Soils 761: Soil Management for Environmental Sustainability Soil-Ecosystem Interactions

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<u>Course Description:</u> Read about and discuss the influence of soil and its management on various ecosystems and organisms. 1hr Lecture/Discussion per week.

### Students completing this course will be able to:

- 1. Describe the influence of soil physical, chemical, and biological properties on various ecosystems.
- 2. Assess the complexity of various management practices and their impacts on soil and ecosystems.
- 3. Lead discussion across disciplines on topics pertaining to ecosystem management and soil.

#### Texts:

We will primarily use journal articles as our text in this class.

There will also be various handouts and links to online resources.

#### Evaluation

Students' grades will be determined as follows:

Leading Discussion 200 points (5 @ 40 points each)

Participation in Group Discussion 200 points

Final Exam 100 points (Oral Exam)

Expect the **A**, **B**, **C**, etc... breakdown to follow the **90**, **80**, **70**, etc... percent of total points earned with +/- grading used. This is a Writing Emphasis credit course.

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated. You may work together in class discussions, but you will do all assignments and exams independently as per Chapter 14 of the Student Handbook.

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Soil Formation
- Soil and Ecosystems
- Student Topics
- Professor Picks Topic
- Final Exam