

SOIL 363/563 – SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTION WRITING

SYLLABUS

Instructor

Bryant C. Scharenbroch, Ph.D.
TNR 278 (office hours by appointment)
T: 715-346-3704
E: bryant.scharenbroch@uwsp.edu

Catalog description

1 cr. Field identification of soil horizons and preparation of official morphological descriptions of soil profiles and associated site factors. Prerequisites: Summer Field Experience or cons instr. Available for graduate credit as Soil 563.

Course overview

This course covering soil profile description writing is designed for upper level undergraduate and graduate students in soils, forestry, natural resources, biological sciences, and related fields. Weekly, students will describe and identify soil profiles. The class meets weekly for eight weeks. Students will be graded on soil profile descriptions.

Course objectives

The objectives of the course are such by the end of the semester the students should be able to:

1. Identify soil horizons
2. Describe morphological characteristics of soil horizons
3. Classify soils based on morphology
4. Interpret soils for land use based on its classification and morphology

Textbooks and references

Schoeneberger, P.J., D.A. Wysocki, E.C. Benham, and Soil Survey Staff. 2012. Field book for describing and sampling soils, Version 3.0. Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Soil Survey Center, Lincoln, NE. Required for course and available in UWSP Text Rental or Available for download at:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/ref/?cid=nrcs142p2_054184

Evaluation

Grading will be based upon quality of work on five soil profile descriptions. Students may work in groups of up to four students to complete the soil profile descriptions. Students working in groups should only turn in one assignment per group to be graded. All students in the group will receive the same grade.

ITEM	VALUE	WEEK DUE
Soil profile 1	20	4
Soil profile 2	20	5
Soil profile 3	20	6
Soil profile 4	20	7
Soil profile 5	20	8
Total	100	N/A

Grading scale

A = 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 72-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 60-66; F = <60

Schedule

DATE	WK	TOPIC
9/2	1	Course introduction and overview
9/9	2	Introduction to soil profile description writing
9/16	3	Soil profile 1
9/23	4	Soil profile 2
9/30	5	Soil profile 3
10/7	6	NO MEETING – Regional Soil Judging Contest – Illinois State University
10/14	7	Soil profile 4
10/21	8	Soil profile 5

Meeting times and location

- Course is held on Thursdays at 1400-1650 (lecture) and meets in TNR 262.
- We will meet in the classroom each week, but will be in field every day.
- The Regional Soil Judging Contest is scheduled for Week 6. Students are encouraged to attend this contest, but not required to do so. We will not have a formal meeting during this week.

Participation and late work

Students are responsible for all material covered in this course. Exercises that are submitted to the instructor late and without prior approval will not be accepted and scored a zero. Scheduling of make-up assignments and/or examinations will be done only if an absence is due to personal illness, accident, death in the family, or a circumstance deemed legitimate by the instructor. Make-ups for in-person activities are not available.

Professionalism and cheating

UWSP students must maintain high degrees of professionalism and commitment to active learning. You are expected to maintain integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom. Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstance. Any student found guilty of either will be prosecuted following UWSP Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures.

Use of course materials

Materials and recordings for this class are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

Emergency procedures

In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 or use the red emergency phones located throughout the campus. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victim. In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings. In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner and meet outside the building. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals. In the event of an active shooter, run, escape, hide and fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of emergency responders. See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at www.uwsp.edu/rmgt for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.

Special rules and considerations during COVID19

Face coverings:

- At all UW-Stevens Point campus locations, the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in all buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other instructional spaces.
- Any student with a condition that impacts their use of a face covering should contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center to discuss accommodations in classes.
- Please note that unless everyone is wearing a face covering, in-person classes cannot take place. This is university policy and not up to the discretion of individual instructors.
- Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in formal withdrawal from the course.

Other guidance:

- Please monitor your own health each day using this screening tool. If you are not feeling well or believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class; email your instructor and contact Student Health Service (715-346-4646).
- As with any type of absence, students are expected to communicate their need to be absent and complete the course requirements as outlined in the syllabus.
- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from others whenever possible.
- Do not congregate in groups before or after class; stagger your arrival and departure from the classroom, lab, or meeting room.
- Wash your hands or use appropriate hand sanitizer regularly and avoid touching your face.
- Please maintain these same healthy practices outside the classroom.