NRM 380 - SOILS AND THE ENVIRONMENT SYLLABUS

Fall   2023

Will be provided by instructor.

Course outline: The course offers fundamental knowledge in soil sciences, which include soil taxonomy, soil physics, soil chemistry, and soil biology and biochemistry both in theory and in applications. Briefly, five areas are covered in the lecture and labs, 1) soil physics and soil formation, 2) soil chemistry, 3) soil biology, 4) soil and plant nutrients and their management; and 5) soil contamination and erosion control. Lectures and laboratory work compromise each other so that what students learned in the lecture can be applied in the laboratory experiments. It is a step stone for students who are pursing degrees in plant, animal and soil sciences, forestry science, biology, ecology, geography, natural resource management, and environmental sciences.

Lecture methods: Face to face or distance delivery through zoom. Online laboratory video is available in Blackboard.

Objective: NRM 380 introduces the fundamentals of soil science. Most examples and applications will be targeted toward non-agricultural areas, but agricultural consequences also will be outlined in the text and in lecture.

NRM-380 SOILS GRADING POLICY

This is a "writing-intensive" course, meaning that a majority of the 768 total points available is based on written assignments and questions. One third of the grade for weekly lab reports and 20% of the final project grade will be determined by the student's ability to write in a clear, concise and correct manner. Each student will be responsible for scheduling at least one personal conference with the instructor concerning his/her writing ability and whether he/she should seek help from the Writing Center. Individual conferences should be scheduled following the first hour exam. Students are required to attend the classes and labs, which will be used to evaluate student performance. Grade will be deducted for late submission of assignments. Plagiarism or academic misconduct is zero tolerance in the class.

Points	Basis
300	Hour Exams (3 @ 100 points). Questions will include true-false, multiple choice, problems, and short answer essay. Hour exams generally will not be graded for writing proficiency unless otherwise indicated.
30	

87 89.9%		B+
82 86.9%		B
80 81.9%		B-
77 79.9%		C+
72 76.9%		C
70 71.9%		C-
60-69%		D
<60%		F

Lecture, exam, and homework schedule

Date	Lecture	Topic	Brady & Weil Chapter	Pr