

SOIL 363/563 – SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTION WRITING

SYLLABUS

Instructor

Bryant C. Scharenbroch, Ph.D.

TNR 278 (office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays at 11-1150 am or when my door is open)

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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 from seven soils.

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
- Soil Survey Staff. 1993. Soil Survey Manual. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC.

- Soil Survey Staff. 2014. Keys to Soil Taxonomy, 12th ed. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC.

Evaluation and grading

Grading will be based upon quality of work on six soil profile description assignments. Each soil profile description assignment is worth 17 points, for a total of 102 possible out of 100 points. For each of the six soil profiles, students will be randomly assigned to groups to perform soil profile descriptions for five sites. Each group will turn in one profile description sheet for that day. All group members will receive the same score for that pit, unless the instructor deems it appropriate for differential grading.

Schedule

DATE	WK	TOPIC
9/5	1	Course Introduction
9/12	2	Soil #1 (FIELD TRIP)
9/19	3	Soil #2 (FIELD TRIP)
9/26	4	Soil #3 (FIELD TRIP)
10/3	5	Soil #4 (FIELD TRIP)
10/10	6	Regional Soil Judging Competition*
10/17	7	Soil #5 (FIELD TRIP)
10/25	8	Soil #6 (FIELD TRIP)

*Students who participate in the Regional Soil Judging Competition will receive extra credit.

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

Lecture meeting time and location

- Thursday at 1400-1650 (lecture) in TNR 262
- Fieldtrips will be scheduled for weeks 2-8

Attendance

Students not attending the field description session are not eligible to turn in an assignment for that soil profile. Make-up sessions are not available. Assignments submitted to the instructor late and without prior approval will not be accepted and scored a zero.

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.