

SOIL 368 – URBAN SOILS

SYLLABUS

Instructor

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TNR 278 (office hours: Tuesday and Thursday at 11-12 pm or when my door is open)

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Catalog description

2 cr. Learn importance, distinguishing characteristics, ecosystem services, and management of urban soils. Prerequisites: none.

Course overview

This course is for undergraduate and graduate students interested in urban soils. Weekly, the course includes a one-hour lecture and a two-hour laboratory session. Laboratory exercises reinforce daily lecture topics. Students learn the importance, characteristics, and classification of urban soils. Students learn skills to test and interpret urban soil properties. Students apply this information towards understanding ecosystem services and management of urban soils.

Course learning outcomes

1. Students will know importance and properties of urban soils.
2. Students will know the classification of urban soils.
3. Students will know how to manage urban soils.
4. Students will know ecosystem services of urban soils.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on their achievement of the four learning outcomes. Grading will be based upon quality of work with components weighted as follows (100 points total).

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| • Introduction and properties of urban soils (Exam 1) | 13 points |
| • Classification of urban soils (Exam 2) | 13 points |
| • Management of urban soils (Exam 3) | 13 points |
| • Ecosystem services of urban soils (Exam 4) | 13 points |
| • Laboratory exercises | 45 points |
| • Participation, professionalism and pop quizzes | <u>3 points</u> |
| • Total | 100 points |

Grading scale

A = 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 60-66; F = <60

Meeting times and locations

The course lecture is on Wednesday in TNR320 at 1300-1350. Laboratory is on Wednesday following lecture in TNR260 at 1400-1550.

Textbook and readings

No textbook is required for this course. Required readings for the course will be placed on the course D2L website.

Schedule

DATE	WK	LECTURE TOPIC	LABORATORY TOPIC
1/23	1	Introduction to Urban Soils	
1/30	2	Properties of Urban Soils	Urban Soil Monolith
2/6	3	Properties of Urban Soils	Urban Soil Monolith (5 pts)
2/13	4	EXAM 1 (13 pts)	
2/20	5	Classification of Urban Soils	Texture of Urban Soils (5 pts)
2/27	6	Classification of Urban Soils	Plasticity of Urban Soils (5 pts)
3/6	7	Classification of Urban Soils	Compaction of Urban Soils (5 pts)
3/13	8	EXAM 2 (13 pts)	
3/20	9	SPRING BREAK	
3/27	10	Management of Urban Soils	Fertilization of Urban Soils (5 pts)
4/3	11	Management of Urban Soils	Contamination in Urban Soils (5 pts)
4/10	12	Management of Urban Soils	Water in Urban Soils (5 pts)
4/17	13	EXAM 3 (13 pts)	
4/24	14	Ecosystem Services of Urban Soils	Urban Soil Mapping
5/1	15	Ecosystem Services of Urban Soils	Urban Soil Mapping
5/8	16	Ecosystem Services of Urban Soils	Urban Soil Mapping (10 pts)
5/13	F	EXAM 4 (13 pts) (final exam period at 1015-1215)	

Professionalism and participation

Students must be professional, committed to learning, and participate in class. You are expected to maintain integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom. Students must preview the lectures, laboratory exercises, and read the assigned readings prior to class. Pop quizzes will be given throughout the semester to encourage students to prepare for class prior to coming to class. Any deviation from these expectations will affect your participation and professionalism grade for the course.

Cheating

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.

Attendance and late assignments

Students are responsible for all assigned readings, materials covered in course lectures, and laboratory sessions. Laboratory exercises and soil profiles of the day will not be accepted from students missing laboratory sessions without an excused absence. Exercises and assignments that are submitted to the instructor late and without prior approval will not be accepted and scored a zero. Scheduling of make-up 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. Prior approval is required for make-up examinations. Make-ups for field trips are not available. Students wishing to attend alternate laboratory sections may do so with prior approval from the instructor.

Instructor feedback

Your opinions matter. I am always willing to hear your thoughts on the course content and my teaching methods. Please feel free to provide feedback to me at any time and using whatever methods you are most comfortable with. Student feedback will be solicited throughout the semester to improve the course and my teaching.

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.