

SOIL/WSTE 486/688 - COMPOSTING

Fall 2021

Dr. R. Michitsch

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Office Hours: drop-in or by appointment only

Course Location/Hours: WEC 110; 2:00-5:00 Tuesdays

Course Catalog Description:

Theory and practice of controlled aerobic decomposition including various methods for composting different types of waste materials. Lab techniques for compost testing and tours of large and small composting facilities.

Tentative Course Discussion Topics:

- W1 Compost basics, safety, facilities
- W2 Busy Bee Compost
- W3 Methods, recipes, build piles, TMECC
- W4 Animal composting
- W5 Troubleshooting
- W6 odors
- W7 Mature compost
- W8 Hsu's Compost
- W9 Compost teas
- W10 Compost microbiology, vermicomposting
- W11 No class
- W12 Regulations, facility design
- W13 Compostability, compostable packaging
- W14 Economics, marketing
- W15 Project presentations

Students Completing This Course Will Be Able To:

Describe various approaches to different composting systems.

Understand and measure basic composting parameters.

Access regulations for composting and waste disposal or reuse.

Troubleshoot an active compost pile over the course of a semester.

Describe economic/societal/legal/environmental influences on composting operations.

Student Assessment:

Homework Assignments	15%	(compost calculator, germination/elongation)
Composting Project	40%	(25% semester work, 15% final presentation)
Final Exam	30%	(Wednesday Dec 15 th , 2:45-4:45pm, WEC 110)
Participation/Professionalism	15%	(classes, lab work, 2-3 field trips)

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated. You may work together in laboratory and class discussions, but you will do almost all assignments and exams independently. You must present your own interpretations of analyses and reflect your understanding of the problem or assignment. Your instructor may allow you to submit joint assignments on a case-by-case basis.