

COURSE SYLLABUS
Dept. of Agricultural & Industrial Sciences
Fall 2008

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE: AGR 344 - Soil Science (4 credit hours)
Lecture: Rm. 322 Thomason Bldg. MW 7:30 AM – 8:45
Lab: Soils Lab Rm. 219 Farrington Bldg.

INSTRUCTOR: Mr. Tim Pannkuk, Lecturer
Office: 216B Farrington Bldg.
Phone: 294-3333 E-mail: Pannkuk@shsu.edu
Office Hours: M & W 9:00- 10:00
T & Th 10:30 – Noon

Brian Vandelist, Teaching Assistant
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TEXT: Soils In Our Environment, 11th Ed., Miller and Gardiner.
10th & 9th Editions are acceptable. Readings from the text are required.

Soil Science Lab Manual , Study Guide, & Lecture Supplement Fall
2007 Edition. This manual is mandatory and can be purchased from
Eagle Graphics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Following completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in the areas of soil science covered in the course instructional objectives (included in the Lab Manual and Study Guide).

COURSE OUTLINE

READING ASSIGNMENTS

	Section
I. Introduction	
A. Importance of soil	1:1
B. Composition of soils	1:2 & 1:3
II. Soil Origin, Formation and Morphology	
A. Mineral weathering	6:1 & 6:2
B. Soil forming factors	6:3 & 6:4
C. Classification of soil parent materials/land forms	6:5
D. Development of the soil profile/morphology	6:6
E. Soil taxonomy	7:1 & 7:2
III. Physical Properties of Soils	
A. Soil texture & fragments	2:2 & 2:3
B. Soil structure	2:4
C. Soil density	2:5
D. Soil porosity and permeability	2:6
E. Soil air	2:7
F. Soil color	2:9
G. Soil temperature	2:10

IV. Soil Biology	
A. Soil Animals	5:2
B. Plants and soil	5:3
C. Soil fungi	5:4
D. Soil protista	5:5
E. Soil monera	5:6
F. Optimum conditions for microbes	5:8
V. Soil Organic Matter	
A. Composition of organic matter	5:9
B. Decomposition of organic matter	5:10
C. Effects of soil organic matter	5:11
D. Organic soil amendments	5:12
VI. Soil Water	
A. Water chemistry	3:2
B. Soil water content	3:3
C. Soil water potential	3:4
D. Soils as water reservoirs & determining content	3:5 & 3:6
E. Soil water movement	3:7
F. Water uptake by plants	3:8
G. Consumptive use and water efficiency	3:9
H. Reducing water losses	3:10
VII. Soil Colloids and Chemical Properties	
A. Soil clays	4:2
B. Organic colloids - Humus	4:3
C. Cation exchange and CEC	4:4
D. Anion exchange	4:5
E. Soil reaction (pH) and liming	4:6
F. Buffering capacity of soils	4:7
VIII. Problem Soils	
A. Acid Soils and Their Management	Chapter 8
B. Saline and sodic soils	Chapter 9 selected pages
C. Soils and environmental pollution	selected readings in chapters 17 & 18
D. Eroded soils and soil conservation	Chapter 14 selected pages
IX. Fertilizers and Fertilizer Use	Chapters 10-12
A. The fertilizer elements	readings as assigned
B. General types of fertilizers	
C. Nutrient carriers	
D. Micronutrient fertilizers	

COURSE EVALUATION:

Lecture exams 3 @ 100 points	300
Pop Quizzes/Assignments (about 10)	100
Final Exam (comprehensive)	200
Laboratory Questions/Quizzes (8 or 9)	<u>200</u>
	800

GRADING SCALE:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
A	720 - 900
B	640 - 719

C	560 - 639
D	480 - 559
F	479 or less

Final Exam: Monday May 12th, 2008 @ 8:00 AM

Note: Students obtaining 480 points or more before the final exam (“B” average or better) may be exempt from taking the final exam. Exemption will be revoked if student has 2 or more unexcused absences in lecture.

DO NOT ASK FOR EXTRA CREDIT WORK

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. Regular and punctual attendance is expected of each student in the Department of Agricultural Sciences at Sam Houston State University.
2. Each faculty member will keep a written record of student attendance.
3. **If a student misses four or more classes**, the student's grade will be reduced by one letter grade. Additional penalties may be assessed at the discretion of the instructor.
4. Three unexcused or unjustified tardies or early departures are considered as one absence.
5. Excused absences must be documented by the student with a letter of confirmation from the sponsoring student organization, professor or doctor. Exemptions will include participation in departmental activities when prior approval is attained from the Department Chair.
6. No exams or assignments will be given at alternative times unless arrangements are made with the professor/instructor before the scheduled activity occurs.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Americans with Disabilities Act

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.