

SOIL 252 – SOILS

SYLLABUS – FALL 2009

INSTRUCTOR: William C. Lindemann, Professor of Soil Microbiology/Environmental Science

OFFICE: 324N Skeen Hall; 646-1907; wvindema@nmsu.edu; Office Hours are 10:30-11:30, MTWThF. I will be in my office or lab (229W Skeen Hall) most times when not on other teaching, research, service, and committee assignments that takes me away from the office. Please feel free to drop by any time. However, I may not be able to drop what I am doing because of other commitments. **Times that I am most busy are 1 hour before my 9:30 and 2:30 classes. At these times I will often not meet with you except with prior approval.** Appointments will save time for both of us. You can contact me by email or phone. Email is often easier for me. Do not use the Blackboard email, use my university email above.

INSTRUCTOR'S BACKGROUND: I am a soil microbiologist by training, education, and desire. My research focuses on how soil microorganisms affect plant growth and environmental problems. My past research projects included nutrient cycling in agricultural and natural ecosystems, reclamation, heavy metal contamination of soil, waste materials (manure/biosolids) in soil, and microbial ecology. Currently, I am heavily involved in diagnosing the cause of chile yield decline which is really more agronomy than strictly soils (but its fun and challenging).

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Mr. Jeremy Klass will be doing some of the teaching this semester. I will be in class most of the time he teaches. Mr. Class is a PhD graduate student in soils. His research is biofeedback with respect to soil biology and plants on the USDA Jornada Experimental Range. Supervised teaching is one of the requirements for Jeremy.

SOIL 252L: The laboratory class is a separate class and I am the official instructor. Your grade in SOIL 252 has nothing to do with the grade in SOIL 252L. We try to coordinate 252 and 252L, but this is not always possible. Although I am the coordinator of 252L, the Teaching Assistants are in charge and are responsible for assigning grades. If you should have problems in 252L, I will gladly talk with you about the problems. Material for the laboratory can be found on the Blackboard main page for SOIL 252L.

PREREQUISITE: CHEM 112 or concurrent enrollment. If you have not had CHEM 112 or are not enrolled in CHEM 112, I will administratively drop you from the class. SOIL 252 has components that require chemistry and the quantitative skills used in chemistry.

TEXT: *Elements of The Nature and Properties of Soils*, N.C. Brady and R. R. Weil. Prentice Hall. This text is oriented more toward agriculture than environmental problems, but it is an excellent reference for those who will deal routinely with soils in their careers.

CODE OF CONDUCT: Please see the Student Code of Conduct in The Student Handbook: (http://www.nmsu.edu/Campus_Life/vpsa/public_html/SCOC/index.html) Pay particular

attention to III. Academic Misconduct. Academic misconduct will not be tolerated and will result in severe penalties including an F in the class.

DISABILITIES: If you have or think you may have a disability that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged for academic reasons to discuss this on a confidential basis with Services for Students with Disabilities at 646-6840 (TTY: 646-1918) in Garcia Annex 102 or go to <http://www.nmsu.edu/~ssd/>. **If you have a disability, you must make this known to me so that arrangements can be made.** If you have a condition that may affect your ability to exit from the premises in case of emergency, you are urged, for safety reasons, to notify me.

OTHER HELP: The Student Success Centers are valuable resource centers for help in note taking, test taking, time-management, tutoring, UNIV courses, and other useful academic skills. The website goes into more detail (<http://ssc.nmsu.edu/>) or you can visit in person (Hardman Hall Room 210; Zhul Library 2nd floor).

ELECTRONICS IN CLASS: Cell phones, computers, I-pods, etc. will be turned off in class. I will ask you to leave if I should find them on. If for some reason you need a cell phone, computer, or other electronic device you must inform me before class. An exception is audio recorders.

OBJECTIVES: To give a broad overview of the nature and properties of soil including their physical, chemical, biological, and fertility properties, how soils are formed, how soils are classified, and how soils influence our lives. The focus of the course will be towards agricultural and ecological uses of soils rather than the engineering uses of soil.

GRADES: Grades will be assigned according to the percentile ranking given below:

A = 90 -100% B = 80 - 89% C = 70 - 79% D = 60 - 69% F = <60%

GRADING SYSTEM:

Final Exam (Comprehensive) -----30%

Exam 1 ----- 20%

Exam 2 ----- 20%

Quizzes (best 6 of 8) ----- 20%

Assignments -----10%

GRADE DISPUTES: If you feel that graded material (quiz, exam, assignment) has been incorrectly marked or calculated, please bring it to my attention immediately. After you receive

your graded material (quiz, exam, assignment), **you have one week to discuss the problem with me.** I will not go back weeks after material is returned and change the grade. The time to grovel for points on quizzes, assignments, and exams is not finals week.

QUIZZES AND EXAMINATIONS: Quizzes and examinations generally will be on the material covered just prior to the quiz/exam. However, they infer that you know previous material covered. Quizzes and exams will be short answer and short essay. Before exams/quizzes I will post Performance Objectives/Reviews to assist you in learning the material. You must keep up with the reading/notes on a chapter by chapter basis to be successful. **The final exam is a comprehensive exam covering the entire course.**

READING: I consider the reading assignments crucial for understanding the material. I will take quiz, exam, and assignment questions directly from the reading assignments.

ASSIGNMENTS: The assignments will mainly cover the quantitative aspects of soils (calculations). Similar problems will be on the quizzes and exams; thus failure to understand or do the assignments will result in missed quiz and exam questions as well as the assignment grade. **All work** must be shown with the answers. Help is available from Jeremy or me, and I encourage you to seek help before assignments are due (this does not mean one hour before class). Late assignments are penalized 5 % / day (including weekends and holidays). After one week, the grade will be a 0. Often, turning in an assignment early will give you bonus points.

GRADE POSTING: Grades for exams, quizzes, assignments, and your final grade will be posted on Blackboard. I will not post your grades in a public location. Other students will not be able to see your grades unless you give somebody your logon and password identification.