

Teaching Plan for SOIL 472 (Soil Morphology and Classification)

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Semester: Fall 2020

SOIL 472 (Soil morphology and classification): Terminology used to describe soils. Soil classification systems of the world with emphasis on systems used in the United States. Theory of classification and taxonomy as applied to soils. **(CATALOG DESCRIPTION)**

SOIL 472 is a four-credit course that meets one per week for lecture (T 1:30-2:45 am), and once per week for lab (TR 1:30-5:00 pm). The lectures are scheduled to meet in the soil teaching lab and the labs are held outside, except for two labs that are held inside. We typically have 16 students in the class. I intend to teach the course with a similar content as in prior semesters. The following exceptions will be made for the implementation of safety practices to help prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 in the instructional environment. **(BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PREVIOUS DELIVERY METHOD)**

1. Lecture. Lecture activities and lecture exams will be planned for online dissemination using Zoom. That is, we will not meet in person. This practice will eliminate student presence in the building and its vicinity during our lecture times. **Scenario 1: There are no longer any significant health threats.** My lectures will be held online for the duration of the semester. If the health threats lessen, I do not propose changing from an online format to a physical presence format. **Scenario 2: Significant health threats have emerged during the semester and face-to-face instruction is no longer tenable.** Since I will be teaching the lectures online from the outset, no changes will be necessary to accommodate an increased health threat. **(PROPOSED CHANGES THAT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED WITH SAFETY AND SCENARIO CHANGES IN MIND)**
2. Labs. Labs will remain face to face as this material cannot be delivered effectively in a virtual environment. If face-to-face meetings are prohibited, this class will be postponed until spring semester 2021. As the majority of the labs are held outside it will be fairly easy to implement social distancing during the labs. Although the labs are team based, each team member works on different aspects of each lab and these can be done while retaining social distancing. Additionally, discrete instructions will be provided in the syllabus and practiced during the semester, as per CDC guidelines, to prevent COVID-19 transmission during lab meetings. These instructions will include 1) self-monitoring using guidelines from the aggie wellness center; 2) 'remaining at home if ill' policy; 3) wearing an approved facemask when on campus if such a directive remains in effect; 4) maintaining six feet social distancing as work duties permit; 5) cleaning and disinfecting countertops, common areas, and shared equipment during and after use; and 6) and practicing frequent hand washing. The greatest change will be to transportation. Students will be asked to provide their own transportation to the lab sites, each of which, except 1, is < 30 min. drive from the NMSU main campus. Many students have requested to drive themselves in past semesters so this is not anticipated to be a huge burden, but students unwilling to provide their own transportation will be provided transportation in department vehicles. This will involve seating one student on each row of the department vans and insuring adequate disinfection of common equipment. **(PROPOSED CHANGES THAT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED WITH SAFETY AND SCENARIO CHANGES IN MIND)**
3. Contact tracing: For contract tracing, student will immediately notify me if they suspect they are ill (fever in excess of 100.4 degrees F, cough, or shortness of breath), or if they are notified that they

may have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Once I learn that a student may have a virus or has been tested as presumptively positive, I will work with the student promptly to isolate them so that they do not transmit it further. I will then work with that student directly to understand who they have come in contact with. Any student who has been infected will be asked about their contacts, and then those contacts are approached. The affected students will call their physician, the NM Department of Health COVID Hotline, or the student health center and, if not already done so, will arrange for a test. In extreme cases, they will call 911. Affected student will return to class only if they have been tested and only after a negative test, or will self-quarantine for 14 days if the test is positive. I will maintain email and telephone of students and their contacts, and keep daily attendance. I will subsequently notify Dr. Rolston St. Hilaire (Department Head) if a student is ill, if positive test results are obtained, and all of the persons with whom the student has had in-person contact. **(PLEASE USE THIS LANGUAGE. ALL PLANS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE CONTACT TRACING INFORMATION).** For more information on contact tracing, go to

<https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20200504/what-is-contact-tracing-and-how-does-it-work#1>