AGN 331 Soil Science  
Lecture & Laboratory  
Face to Face Version, Spring 2016  
Syllabus

Contact Information:
J. Leon Young  
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Soil Plant Analysis Lab: 936-468-4500  
Agriculture Department, Main Office: 936-468-3705  

Home: 936-569-6721  
Cell: 936-205-0556 (does not work after 5:00 PM or on Weekends)  
E-mail: Lyoung@sfasu.edu  
Office hours:  
Monday: 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon and 1:30 to 4:00 PM  
Tuesday: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and 2:00 to 3:00 PM  
Wednesday: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM and 3:00 to 4:00 PM  
Thursday: 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM
Friday: 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon and 1:30 to 4:00 PM

You can contact me on my office phone, home phone, cell phone, or e-mail,

You can also use the mail tool in D2L to contact me. I will check the course mail daily (at least once on weekends) and usually respond to your mails within **12 to 24 hours**. However, if you are having major problems, do not hesitate to contact me by telephone.

**Navigating Through the Course:** This will be a Web Assisted Course. We will use many of the materials from the online version of the course. There will be additional material and discussion presented during lecture and lab time. Please read all information regarding the use of D2L found in the Introduction and Course Overview section found under the "Course Content" button located on the Course Content Page or Home Page. You will be responsible for understanding how the course will be delivered. This page will provide you with all the information you will need. Not knowing how to use the tools will not be an acceptable excuse. Help is available from many sources including your professor.

**Text:** *The Nature and Properties of Soils*, 13th or 14th edition, Revised by N.C. Brady and R. R. Weil. **Obtaining a copy of this text is absolutely necessary for successful completion of the course.** You may use an e-book version if you choose. Every chapter of online material will have assignments and readings from the textbook. You will be responsible for the text material as well as the online material. You cannot be successful in this class without interacting with all material.

**Attendance & Job Performance:** I will be taking attendance in both Lecture and Lab. From this information an attendance grade will be calculated on a percentage basis. On Mondays, students will turn in note cards with questions which will be used to determine attendance. On Wednesdays students will ask questions or respond to questions to determine attendance.

**Assignments (Dropbox in D2L terminology):** Assignments must be completed for each Learning Module or unit. You must complete and submit the module assignment by the due time. **Assignments submitted late will have points deducted, 50%.** If the assignment is not completed by the time of the exam on that module, then an assignment grade of zero (0) will be recorded. **Late assignments should be submitted using the D2L Mail feature, and be submitted before the exam on that unit.**

The objective of these assignments is to help you begin studying the terms that will be used in each unit. Doing these assignments will help you remember definitions of the terms and ultimately make better grades.
You must complete the Honesty Statement and submit it before you will be allowed to take the first exam. The statement and instructions are found as the first assignment in the Dropbox section of the course. This will allow you to not only show your intent, but to practice assignment submission for your course assignments. Follow the directions to complete it. Cheating will not be tolerated.

More information on Assignments are provided in the "How the course will work" essay contained in the Introduction Module

● **Testing:** All weekly lecture exams will be done online and in a proctored setting. All on campus students will take exams in the Ag Building, Room 109, 115 and 116, OR possibly using the LINK labs in the SFASU Library. Dr. Young will proctor. (talk to Dr. Young for details and options).

If you attempt to take an exam from a location other than the proctored setting without Dr. Young giving prior approval, you will be given a grade of zero (0) on that exam. If this occurs a second time the student will be given a "D" in the course. A third violation will result in a grade of "F". This same grade deduction will be used for students caught cheating on exams (See Academic Dishonesty section below).

If you do not live in Nacogdoches, have no other classes on Friday, wish to take on line exams where you live, then we may be able to set up a proctored setting at that location.

Laboratory exams will usually be pencil and paper exams and are Open Book & Open Note exams.

You must take exams in the sequence given for the course in the schedule.

● **Make-up exams:** Students may make up one exam. Students must make arrangements with Dr. Young to take the make-up exam by Noon on Tuesday of the week after the missed exam. Otherwise, the final exam grade will be used calculate points for missed exams which have not been made up using the following formula:

\[(\%\text{ grade on final})\times(\text{points of missed exam})=\text{points recorded for missed exam}\]

Missed Lab exams will be made up using the Lab Final and the formula above.

● **Laboratory:** Laboratory will consist of students working with "apps" on their cell phone, Web Soil Survey, Calculations relating to water and irrigation rates, soil testing for lime and fertilizer recommendations, calculating lime and fertilizer rates, soil physical properties, and other assignments
and activities.

**Grading:** Final grades are based on a percentage of total points. Accumulation of total points will be according to the following schedule. The same grade will be given in Lecture and Laboratory.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>Points (approximate)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Exams</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; performance</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Final</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2650</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: These are estimated points based on what has happened in previous semesters. Actual points will vary from semester to semester.

**Student Learner Outcomes and Course Objectives:**
1. Understand and use soil science terminology
2. Understand and explain major principals of soil science
3. Relate soil science to other sciences and to the agriculture industry
4. Use principals of soil science in problem solving.

**Program Learning Outcomes:**
1. The student will demonstrate entry level skills needed for success in horticulture, agronomy, animal science and other related fields in the area of:
   a) plant physiology and anatomy
   b) practical experience in plant management systems
c) basic knowledge of plant genetics and reproduction

d) identification and knowledge of crops and

e) management of soils including use of lime, fertilizer nutrients, and crop protection chemicals

2. The student will demonstrate quantitative competence related to horticulture and agronomy. (Quantitative)

3. The student will exhibit problem solving skills based on quantitative and analytical reasoning. (Problem solving)

4. The student will demonstrate effective communication skills. (Communications)

5. The student will exhibit leadership and other interpersonal skills needed for career placement and advancement. (Leadership)

Lecture Topics:
1. Introduction (Chapter 1)
2. Soil Formation and Classification (Chapter 2 and 3)
3. Soil Physical Properties (Chapter 4 and 7)
4. Soil Water (Chapters 5, 6, 17)
5. Soil Mineralogy and Colloids (Chapter 8)
6. Soil pH (Chapters 9)
7. Alkaline and Salt Affected Soils (Chapter 10)
8. Soil Organisms (Chapter 11)
9. Organic Matter (Chapters 12)
10. Nitrogen (Chapters 13 and 16)
11. Phosphorous (Chapters 14 and 16)
12. Potassium (Chapters 14 and 16)
13. Secondary Nutrients and Micronutrients (Chapters 9, 13, and 15)

Detailed dates are show in the course Schedule

Laboratory: The Laboratory portion of the course will consist of:
• Using Web Soil Survey
• Collection of soil samples from an area which you might manage by applying lime and fertilizer.
• Laboratory analyzes of your soil samples.
• Making lime and fertilizer recommendations
• Calculations of water, lime and fertilization rates

Academic Integrity (A-4.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at:

http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf

Based on this policy

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students
register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to:
http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

Acceptable Classroom Behavior: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic/online forums, classroom meetings, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare program http://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

- Students should not wear hats or caps in class or lab.
- Students should not use tobacco products and "spit cups/bottles" in class or lab.

Responsible Use of Technology: It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop or tablet computers, MP3 players, and related devices outside of class time
or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop/tablet for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class or other penalties. Use of cell phones and other wireless technology (laptops, I-pads and similar devices) in conjunction with class activities is encouraged. **There are two neat "apps" for smart phones: "soilweb" and "soil survey". They are free. Get them.**

Content Timeline
Spring 2016

**NOTE:** Weeks begin on Friday and end with an EXAM 7 days later on a Friday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1:</td>
<td>January 20 to January 22</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2:</td>
<td>January 22 to January 29</td>
<td>Chapters 2 &amp; 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3:</td>
<td>January 29 to February 5</td>
<td>Chapters 4 &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4:</td>
<td>February 5 to February 12</td>
<td>Chapters 5, 6, &amp; 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5:</td>
<td>February 12 to February 19</td>
<td>continue Week 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6:</td>
<td>February 19 to February 26</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7:</td>
<td>February 26 to March 4</td>
<td>Chapters 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8:</td>
<td>March 4 to March 11</td>
<td>Chapters 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9:</td>
<td>March 11 to April 1, Spring Break to beginning of Easter Break, Exam on Friday, April 1</td>
<td>Chapter 11 &amp; 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10:</td>
<td>April 1 to April 8</td>
<td>Chapter 13 &amp; 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11:</td>
<td>April 8 April 15</td>
<td>Chapters 13 &amp; 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12:</td>
<td>April 15 to April 22</td>
<td>Chapters 14 &amp; 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13:</td>
<td>April 22 to April 29</td>
<td>Chapters 9, 13, 14, 15, &amp; 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Events</td>
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<td>------------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
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</tbody>
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| Week 14    | May 1 to May 8| Dead Week, Lab Final
                      | May 3, Catch-Up, Study for Final           |
| Week 15    | May 11 to May 14| Finals Week
                        | Final Exam Wed. May 11, 8:00AM             |