

Soils and the Environment: EarthSc/ EnvirSc 2B03

Course Outline: Fall 2016

Professor: Dr. James E. Smith
GSB-221 smithja@mcmaster.ca

Office Hours: Mon and Thurs 10:30-11:30am

T.A.'s: Biagi, Camacho, 0.5 Winland-Gaetz

Course Description: An introduction to the physical, chemical and biological properties of soils within the context of environmental systems.

Prerequisites: One of ENV SCI 1A03, 1B03, 1G03, ISCI 1A24.

Lectures: Mon and Thurs 9:30-10:20 in CNH B107
Attendance at all scheduled lectures is mandatory – Lecture materials on Avenue to Learn

Labs: Once per week (as specified): All LABS in room BSB 315
Labs/Assignments: download from Avenue to Learn
L01 Wed. 2:30- 5:20pm; L02 Fri 2:30- 5:20pm; L03 Mon. 2:30-5:20pm; L04 Tues 2:30-5:20pm;
L05 Fri. 8:30-11:20am

*Attendance at all scheduled wet laboratories is mandatory; **due to lab capacity you must attend your assigned lab section***

The laboratory aspect of the course will include hands-on measurement of soil properties along with additional related assignment questions. Each lab / assignment will span two weeks (one-two lab sessions) with a total of three lab reports and one assignment due. A calculator, graph paper, and internet access are required to complete the lab reports. Labs must be handed in by the due date and time. Late labs will NOT be accepted and will be assigned a grade of zero unless university documentation (e.g. illness/compassionate accommodation) from you Associate Dean of Studies Office is received. You will work in groups in the lab, although you must hand in your own reports.

Required text: Elements of the Nature and Properties of Soils by Brady & Weil or The Nature and Properties of Soil. Brady & Weil. Note- older editions are OK, but will differ in page 3 and figure #. Readings will be assigned and posted on Avenue to Learn.

Mark Distribution:	Lab (3)	25% Total (7% + 7% + 11%)
	Midterm	35% (Thurs Oct 27 th , 2016)
	Final Exam	40%

Attendance at all lectures and laboratories as scheduled is mandatory. All work must be handed-in on or before the due date and time indicated. Late work will not be accepted and will be assigned a grade of zero unless official university documentation excusing the student for a relevant time period is received. See your Associate Dean of Studies Office for related consideration.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained
- improper collaboration in group work
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations

The University reserves the right to change any aspect of this course outline. The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.