

OGLALA LAKOTA COLLEGE

GEOL 213 Soils I

Spring 2016

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Course Description

This course involves a survey of the physical properties and formational processes soils, with special emphasis on the soil-forming environments of the northern Great Plains. Topics will include Jenny's five factors of soil formation, soil geomorphology, the catena concept, soil classification, and soil description. There will be at least one class field trip. The format for Soils I includes: 1) weekly lectures, 2) weekly reading assignments, 3) weekly written assignments, 4) four non-cumulative exams, 5) a basic soil description project, and 6) extra credit assignments at the instructor's discretion (**3 Credits**).

Prerequisites/Expectations of Previous Experience

Prerequisite is GEOL 143 with a "C" or better.

Course Learning Outcomes

Soils I is a core requirement for the Earth Science concentration within the Bachelor's Degree in Natural Science. At the end of the semester successful students will have the following knowledge:

1. Students will understand the scientific method as applied to pedological evidence.
2. Students will understand and be able to describe in general terms the formation of soils as interpreted from pedological evidence.
3. Students will understand and be able to describe in general terms the classification of soils as interpreted from pedological evidence.
4. Students will understand and be able to describe in general terms the soils of the Black Hills, northern Great Plains, and the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Using Internet-based Content Management Systems

The course is internet supported through GoogleDrive. GoogleDrive will be used to facilitate much of the daily course activity and students will be required to download course material and information and correspond with the instructor and other students by email

Textbook (required)

Soil Science: Step-by-Step Field Analysis (2008) Logsdon, Clay, Moore, and Tsegaye (eds.)

Supporting Documentation will be provided as handouts during class time, and as a field guide during the field trip. Additional materials may be made available on the Moodle platform if used.

Descriptive Reading Load

This class requires a Grade 14 reading level. Students are expected to read approximately two chapters every week.

Types and Amounts of Writing Expected

Writing in this class is required, and consists of weekly essays, essay questions on exams, a semester field project, and extra-credit assignments. The weekly essays, field project, and extra-credit assignments may be submitted in person during class, by email, or by FAX.

Lakota Perspective

This course stresses **Wolakotakiciapi** or “learning Lakota ways of life in the community”. Participants in this course are expected to practice respect for each other, the instructor, and for the Earth and all living and natural things that are used during this course.

Course Breakdown

Each week we will have a lecture followed by the instructor leading a discussion of the reading.

Grading

Your final grade is calculated based on the percentage of possible points in the course.

Assignment Type	Points	Number	Total pts	Percent	
Take-home Mid-term Exam	100	1	100	20%	
Take-home Final Exam	100	1	100	20%	
Field Trips	50	1	50	10%	
Class Participation	10	15	150	30%	
Field Project	100	1	100	20%	
Extra Credit	various	various	various	various	
Total			500	100%	

The following scale will be used:

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89.9%

C = 70% - 79.9%

D = 60% - 69.9%

F = below 60%

Materials

Occasionally soil samples will be examined during class. These are the property of the Math and Science Department and should be handled with care.

Tardiness (from OLC Policy Handbook)

In formulating this policy it is understood that unique problems exist for both students and faculty due to the decentralized nature of OLC. Classes meet only once per week, so it is important that they be held – even if they begin late or are made up at the end of the semester. Generally speaking, if an instructor is going to be late getting to a college center for a class, the center staff should always be notified. If an instructor is late for a class, students must wait for one-half hour. After this time, the class will be considered cancelled for that week and must be made up. Otherwise, a student shall be considered tardy for class if arriving late for class, but during the first hour of the class. A student arriving later may be marked absent. This policy will not interfere with the instructor's prerogative to grade for class participation. In the event that no students appear for class at the scheduled starting time, the instructor should wait at least one-half hour before deciding to cancel the class. All missed classes must be made up.

Attendance (from Policy Handbook)

Students are required to attend classes regularly. Instructors will submit attendance on-line weekly to the end of the semester. If a student wishes to be excused from a class, it is the student's responsibility to clear the absence with the instructor. At that time the student must arrange for a make-up assignment. However, an excused absence is the same as an absence until the student has completed work equivalent to being in class. Once the assignment is completed, the instructor will then change the absent to present. A student may be dropped from a course after three consecutive absences and **WILL** be dropped by the Registrar after five total absences. **There are NO reinstatements and No exceptions for students who are dropped for five absences.**

Reading Assignments

You will typically be assigned 2 chapters of reading every week. Be prepared to discuss reading assignments in class. Inability to do so will result in lowering of points for class participation.

Honor Policy

You are encouraged to consult each other while studying for exams, on field trips, and for extra credit assignments, especially if you encounter a unfamiliar or difficult concepts. However, you should ensure that YOU personally can do each and every problem, and the work you turn in must be your own. In the case that a student turns in work that is demonstrably in violation of the policy, the student(s) involved will receive a zero for the assignment, and an academic dishonesty report will be filed with the VP of Academic Affairs. Multiple or extensive violations will result in greater penalties, up to receiving an immediate F for the class.

Electronic Device Policy

Please turn off your cell phone before class starts. No text messaging in class. No headphones. If you wish to use a laptop in this class for purposes of note taking ONLY, that's fine. No web surfing, emailing, or game-playing in class is permitted, and violators will be excused from class for the day. Repeat offenders may be dropped from the course. No other use of any other electronic/computer media is allowed during class time.

ADA Statement

Students with special needs or requiring special accommodations (including physical and learning disabilities, and pregnancy) should contact the instructor, at the earliest opportunity. If you have a disability and are in need of assistance to successfully complete this class please contact the OLC Coordinator of Support Services, at 455-6040. See OLC Policy 85-600 for further details.

Course Philosophy

You are not studying and learning for the instructor, but for yourself. Grades are important for your academic career; nevertheless, your professional life really begins after you graduate. Understanding Earth's history will help you not only in your professional career, but also to understand and appreciate your surroundings and life itself.

This is a beginning course in Earth Science. This is your chance to start build onto your existing knowledge and to excel in it. However, what you take away from this course is ultimately up to you the student. You have to invest **your** time into learning.

Tips to Succeed in this Course

Read chapters **before** trying to discuss them in class. Then it will be much easier for you to ask questions about material that you did not understand prior to taking exams. Don't just "read" the textbook. Keep good notes in a separate notebook that you can use to study for exams. Use your notebook to comprehend new concepts and define new terms **in your own words**. This notebook will be useful for studying for other classes later in your program. Actively take part in the class discussions. This will help you understand new and difficult concepts in a collaborative fashion.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus at any time. Students will be informed of any such change