

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Soil Science

Basic Course Information

Semester	Fall 2015	Instructor Name	Dr. Pat Pauley
Course Title & #	AG 120	Email	patrick.pauley@imperial.edu
CRN #	10922	Webpage (optional)	
Room	2732	Office	2773
Class Dates	August 17, 2015 – December 11, 2015	Office Hours	Monday – Thursday 0700 AM to 0800AM
Class Days	Tuesday and Thursday	Office Phone #	760-355-6363
Class Times	0800 AM – 1005AM T 0800 AM – 1110AM TH	Office contact if student will be out or emergency	Department Secretary Silvia Murray 760-355-6201 or Ofelia Duarte 760-355-6155
Units	3		

Course Description

This course provides a basic knowledge of the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soils and their characteristics. Includes fundamental soil properties, soil-plant relationships, soil formation, fertilization and soil management, salinity, pH, erosion management, soil moisture and non-agricultural uses. Laboratory required. Laboratory topics include soil type, classification, soil reaction, soil fertility and physical properties of soil. (CSU, UC)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, with a grade of "C" or better, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and/or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

- Identify soil crop compatibility via research and reporting information obtained from lecture, journal study and text materials in either a written or verbal manner by assigned completion date (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4).
- Conduct lab analysis using prescribed protocols on known samples to derive accurate & repeatable results that are reported in a useful format (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4).
- Develop an accurate and useful recommendation for soil application or amendment for desired crop production within a reasonable soil/crop interaction (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4).

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe our soils as a natural resource which must be managed and preserved.
- Describe and identify the textural class of a soil by feel and laboratory procedures.
- Appreciate the role of soil structure and the effects of tillage management in soil productivity.
- Describe the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soils and understand their formation and why soils are reservoirs for nutrients, water, and microscopic life. To effectively manage these properties for sustained productivity.
- Understand the methods and means by which organic matter may be added to the soil and how it decomposes to maintain and stimulate soil health. Describe the chemical elements necessary for plant growth, identify common deficiency and toxicity symptoms, and keep the soil in an adequate supply and balance.
- Measure and understand the effects and alleviation of soil compaction in crop production situations.
- Understand why irrigated soils must be managed in special ways to preserve its productivity.
- Understand the effects of salts on soil structure, pH, productivity and drainage.
- Use laboratory methods to measure the above properties.

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Computer Applications in Ag

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Fundamental Soil Science [Mark S. Coyne, James A Thompson]

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Students must comply with all rules and regulations of Standards of Student Conduct outlined in the Imperial Valley College General Catalog. **For writing assignments I expect you to demonstrate proficiency in the use of the English Language.** Grammatical errors and writing that do not express ideas clearly will affect your grade. Students who are unable to write correctly and have trouble expressing ideas clearly are urged to contact the appropriate campus resources for assistance.

Exams

Two exams will be given. Exams may include true/false, short answer, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Exams will be worth 100 points each. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS!**

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Class Requirements - Class grading will be based on points in the following distribution:

- Lab 100 points
- Class Participation 100 points
- Exams 300 points

Grading - Final grades will not be further adjusted as any "rounding" will be done on individual exams, quizzes or assignments.

- A = 100 – 90%
- B = 89 – 80%
- C = 79 – 70%
- D = 69 – 60%
- F = < 59%

Attendance

The instructor as of the first official meeting of that class the first mandatory activity of an online class will drop a student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.

- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.
- If you find that you need to excuse yourself early on rare occasion you should make every effort to get to class early so that you can sit close to the door. This will allow you to leave the room without disrupting the learning environment for your fellow students. Similarly, if you should not be able to avoid being late, it is your responsibility to come in and sit down in a manner that will not be disruptive. Either of these events are NOT to be regular occurrences for any given student. Additionally, it will be the student's responsibility to obtain notes for any missed class time, as I do not lend them.

Classroom Etiquette

- **Electronic Devices:** I require that all cell phones, pagers and other noise making devices be **turned off or to vibrate** during class. If you must use these devices during class, I ask that you quietly and discretely leave the room. Failure to comply with such rules will earn you the opportunity to give a 5-minute oral presentation on an environmental topic of the instructor's choice during the next class period or to receive an automatic deduction of 20 points from your overall course grade.
- **Food and Drinks:** are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.
- **Disruptive Students:** Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- **Children in the classroom:** Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Computer Applications in Ag

Academic Honesty

- **Plagiarism** is taking and presenting, as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to 'cite a source' correctly, you must ask for help.
- **Cheating** is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.
- Anyone caught cheating or will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Additional Help – Discretionary Section and Language

- **Blackboard** support center: <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8543>
- **Learning Labs:** There are several 'labs' on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Study Skills Center (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program.
- **Library Services:** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the Study Skills Center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313, if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>