

CSS 205 - Soils: Sustainable Ecosystems

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Course Format:

Online

****NOTE FOR SPRING 2020:** This class will begin one week late, on April 6th, and will be a 9-week course presented online. Students must have Moodle set up in advance, and use their Linn-Benton e-mail address to check for updates to material and communications from the instructor.

Office Hours: Please contact me via email to make an appointment (48 hours advance). In the first few weeks of classes, I will be available via phone, zoom or skype to meet with students.

Welcome

This course covers soil ecosystems as a medium for plant and crop growth, the cycling of nutrients, supply and purification of water, and a habitat for a diverse population of soil organisms. How human activities affect the sustainability of soil ecosystems is discussed.

Student Learning Outcomes

The successful completion of this course will enable students to:

- Describe the functions of soils in natural and managed ecosystems
- Discuss the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil
- Evaluation the impact of human activities on soil and environmental quality
- Apply soil science concepts to everyday experiences as well as specific fields of study, such as agronomy and forest engineering.

Required Materials:

- 1. Textbook: Elements of Nature and Properties of Soil, 4th Edition** Prentice Hall
- 2. Lab Manual: CSS 205 Soils: Sustainable Ecosystems**, available at the LBCC Bookstore\

Assessments:

Moodle Quizzes	9@ 10 pts each	90 pts
Midterm Exam		50 pts
Lecture activities		80 pts
Pre-Lab Assignments	9@ 5 pts each	45 pts
Lab Assignments	9@ 15 pts each	135 pts
<u>Final Exam</u>		<u>50 pts</u>
TOTAL		450 pts

Grading Scheme:

90-100%	A
80-89.0%	B
70-79.9%	C
60-69.9%	D
59.9% and below	F

I. General Policies

I. Attendance Policy: Students are expected to view all lectures provided on Moodle. Because materials will be available more than a week before due dates, no quizzes, lab work, or assignments will be accepted late.

This course is a lab science course, so it is expected that you will complete at least 60% of the labs (applied activities) to gain a passing grade. If a student misses more than 3 labs, the student will automatically fail the course, regardless of the overall percentage for the remainder of the course.

II. Learning Platform

To access the Moodle component, go to the Linn-Benton website at: <http://www.linnbenton.edu/>, Select **Quicklinks**

- > Scroll down and select (Moodle) – right hand side of screen.
- > Create Account (if necessary). See yellow hi-lighted area in middle of the page.
- > Login with UserName and Password
- > On the left hand panel: Click on the respective course under “My Courses”
- > You may need to expand the folder by clicking on the “+” symbol.
- > Click on CSS205 - SOILS: Sustainable Ecosystems

On Moodle:

- Syllabus
- Course Schedule/Reading Schedule
- Additional Resources and Assignments
- Weekly Quizzes
- Lecture Slides/Outlines
- Course Grades

III. Make-Ups

Make up exams: There will be no make-up exams unless I am informed **in writing** prior to the exam that you will need to miss, and only for documentable reasons. This does not include event tickets, vacations, or other non-university sanctioned events. You need to talk with me directly for approval to make up an exam. Exams may not be taken early, and must be completed before the end of the following week.

IV. Special Accommodations

Students who need accommodations due to documented disabilities, have medical information which the instructor should know about, or who need special arrangements in an emergency should speak with the instructor during the first week of class. If you have not accessed services and think you may need them, please contact the [Center for Accessibility Resources](#), 917-4789 or visit RCH 105. If you have already documented your disability, remember that you must complete a [Request for Accommodations](#) form every term in order to receive accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to make any needs known to me within the first week of the semester, *in writing*, so that I can give appropriate accommodation. This includes but is not limited to disabilities of visual, hearing, learning, dates needed for religious holidays, court dates etc.

Va. Academic Misconduct: This includes any form of cheating and will not be tolerated. Students are encouraged to read the college catalog or Student Handbook for further details. If a student is found to have cheated on an exam, after due process the resulting grade will be a zero on the exam or quiz. All group work should still be written in the student's own handwriting and language.

Repeat violations of this policy will be referred to the Dean of Science, Engineering and Math Division. Violations of academic honesty will be met with severe measures that may include failing the course or expulsion from the college.

Vb. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the taking of ideas that are not your own and attempting to submit them as your own this is also considered academic misconduct. Using someone else's work as your own, including your classmates work, can lead to serious consequences. Plagiarism is subject to disciplinary action and when appropriate will affect your grade. If you use a published source to quote or even paraphrase a reference it is critical to cite your sources, when in doubt ask your instructor specifics about this policy – do not assume that “not knowing” will excuse you from this college-wide policy.

Vc. Professionalism: All students in this class will treat each other and faculty with professionalism. Distracting and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.

VI. Personal Computers (Notebook/Laptop/PDA)

Tablet, Laptop or PDA for class notes and in labs may be used for class or lab activities.

VII. Withdrawing from Classes (Dropping a Class After the Refund Deadline)

To drop a class or withdraw from school, you must turn in a Schedule Change form at the Registration Counter or at a community center or use the SIS system. If you withdraw from a course after the refund deadline, you will receive a "W" grade in the class, and you will forfeit all

claims to refunds, and be financially responsible for any tuition and fees. Failure to drop a class may impact your grade point average and financial aid eligibility. Note: For classes meeting eight or more weeks, the deadline to withdraw from the class is 5 p.m. on Friday of the seventh week of the term.

IX. Incomplete Policy

An incomplete (IN) will only be issued when a student is unable to complete the last exam by the end of the term due to extenuating circumstances. Each incomplete grade will be accompanied by a signed contract specifying the conditions necessary to complete the course. A minimum of 70% of the course work must be accomplished (excluding the final exam) before consideration of an incomplete is granted.

Failure from lack of attendance or missing numerous labs is not grounds for an incomplete.

The “Incomplete” contract will be signed by the student and the instructor and placed on file in the Division office.

X. Assessments

Exams: Are designed to monitor your mastery of the material that you have learned. There will be three exams in this course, each covering roughly one third of the course. The exam format will be multiple choice, short essay, diagramming, analyzing information, and matching. It may take up to one week to grade an exam. All students will receive their test back on the same day. I do not turn back exams early during office hours to individuals.

Early Take Exams: Under no circumstances are midterm or final exams administered early, please plan accordingly.

Pre-Lab Assignment: Found in your lab manual in the front most section. These are due at the beginning of each lab. The questions will be graded in class by peer students, and then turned in. In order to receive credit you will need to turn in the pre-lab at the specified time. Each pre-lab assignment is worth five points, and **will not be accepted if you are late to labs conducted in-person.**

Labs: Students will read through/ watch the materials provided and answer the questions in the lab each week.

This is a university transfer course, it is expected that the student will attend at least 70% of the labs to pass the course.

Late Work: Will NOT be accepted without supporting documentation to show your inability to meet deadlines e.g. a doctor’s note or hospital admission form.

XI. College Wide Policies

Comprehensive nondiscrimination policy: LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws (for further information <http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandARs/>). Policy 1015.

Inclement Weather Policy: If campus is open class will be given (including lab days) and scheduled exams/quizzes will be administered. Please listen to local media coverage for notice of closures such as T.V., radio stations, & the [LBCC website](#).

Basic Needs Policy

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Roadrunner Resource Center for support (resources@linnbenton.edu , or visit us on the web www.linnbenton.edu/RRC under Student Support for Current Students). Our office can help students get connected to resources to help. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources that they may possess.

CRISIS? Don't hesitate to reach out to me. For anything. Anytime.