

CONS 405G: Soil and Water Conservation - Spring 2023

Instructor: Dr. Joel Gruver

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Office hours: MW 9-10 11-12

Class meeting time and location: MWThF12-12:50 pm in KH 305

Text: No text – readings from a wide variety of sources will be assigned

Course Description:

This course explores the science and practice of soil and water resource management. The course begins with an overview of the processes that formed Illinois' soil and water resources and their dramatic alteration by man. Next, we will discuss the historical development of interest in resource conservation and the current status of IL's natural, agricultural and urban ecosystems. The rest of the course will focus on the science and practice of soil and water resource management in a wide variety of rural and urban contexts.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Describe the formation, alteration and current status of IL's soil & water resources
- Describe the historical development and current status of soil & water resource conservation in IL
- Apply scientific principles to soil and water management problems in urban and rural environments

Grade Determination:

Quizzes (most Fridays)	30 %	A	93 - 100	C	73-76
Reading Qs	20 %	A-	90 – 92	C-	70-72
Interview projects	20 %	B+	87-89	D+	67-69
Final exam	10 %	B	83-86	D	63-66
Attendance	10 %	B-	80-82	D-	60-62
Curious about Conservation project	10 %	C+	77-79	F	< 60

Reading questions will be assigned most weeks. Answers must be submitted on the designated due date using Western Online for full credit. All steps must be shown for quantitative problems. On Fridays, there will often be a quiz covering the week's topic. Make-up quizzes are only an option for students who communicate in advance or have an emergency that prevents communication. A variety of interview projects be assigned and responses must be submitted on time for full credit. The Curious about Conservation project will be explained in detail after spring break.

Attendance and deadlines:

Attendance will be monitored using check-in Qs. Please communicate if you have a technical problem that prevents you from answering the check-in Qs within the allotted

time. All students who miss 5 or fewer classes will receive an attendance grade of 100%. Students will lose 20% of their attendance grade for each additional class that they miss. Assignments submitted after assigned dates will lose 20% for each day that they are late.

Lecture Schedule

Week #	Mon	Wed	Thu	Fri	Topic
1	-	1/18	-	-	The making of IL
2	1/23	1/25	1/26	1/27	The breaking of IL
3	1/30	2/1	2/2	2/3	Emergence of a conservation ethic
4	2/6	2/8	-	2/10	The city solution?
5	-	2/15	2/16	2/17	IL's natural ecosystems
6	2/20	2/22	2/23	-	IL agroecosystems
7	2/27	3/1	-	3/3	Understanding soil erosion
8	3/6	3/8	3/9	3/10	Soil conservation practices
9	---	---	---	---	Spring Break
10	3/20	3/22	3/23	3/24	The hydrologic cycle
11	3/27	3/29	3/30	3/31	Agricultural drainage
12	4/3	4/5	4/6	4/7	Stormwater management
13	4/10	4/12	4/13	4/14	Water scarcity
14	4/17	4/19	4/20	4/21	Waste management
15	4/24	4/26	4/27	4/28	Multi-functional landscapes part 1
16	5/1	5/3	5/4	5/5	Multi-functional landscapes part 2
17	Monday 5/8 @ 1 pm FINAL EXAM				

Academic honesty:

NO CHEATING, PLAGIARISM, OR OTHER VIOLATIONS OF THE WIU ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY WILL BE TOLERATED.

<http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.shtml>

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Detailed information regarding student rights and responsibilities can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/student/> . It is your responsibility to be familiar with the posted information.

Special Accommodations:

In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), special accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the

need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to my attention, as I am not legally permitted to inquire about the needs of specific students. Students who may require special assistance in emergency evacuations (i.e. fire, tornado, etc.) should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow in such an emergency. **Contact Disability Support Services at 298-2512 for additional services.**

Attention Education Majors:

The changes within the Illinois State Teaching License requirements, students are required to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course in order to meet state requirements. With the university's +/- grading system, receiving a grade below a "C-" will require you to retake this course or find a substitute course to meet School of Agriculture graduation requirements.