AGRI-3141 Soil Laboratory Syllabus: FALL 2023

This course section is FACE-to-FACE.

This section is experiential hands on.

There is No ZOOM attendance.

Instructor

Wayne Weatherford

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Office Hours: By appointment

Office: Room 122

Meeting Days and Times by Section

Section AGRI-3141-020  Laboratory Time Monday: 8:00 am to 9:50 am
Agriculture Bldg. 108

Section AGRI-3141-021  Laboratory Time Monday: 12:00 pm to 1:50 pm
Agriculture Bldg. 108

Section AGRI-3141-022  Laboratory Time Monday: 3:00 pm to 4:50 pm
Agriculture Bldg. 108

General Rhythm

- The learner will review the information on the Data Form for the exercise(s) addressed in each laboratory day.
- The learner will review the Method(s) of the specific Exercise(s) for the laboratory day.
- The learner must address laboratory quiz(ies) to be allowed to participate in the exercise. Among the educational reasons for this is safety. Failure to complete pre-lab quiz(zes) and therefore the inability to participate in the laboratory exercise will result in failure for the exercise: no alternates or makeups. It takes hour(s) to set up an exercise and it takes hour(s) to disassemble an exercise so makeups and rescheduling is unreasonable.
• The learner will actively participate in the exercise(s) and interact with other learners in the assigned group.
• The learner will take in-class and post-class quiz(izes) according to instructor direction or the specific Agenda. The instruction team reserves the right to deliver pop-quiz(izes).
• The specific agenda serves to inform learner(s) about which exercise, or exercises, and which version of the procedures the learner is to be prepared to participate in for each week. Many exercises span more than one week and is also addressed in the specific Agenda.

The learner is to be prepared to participate in multiple exercises, or parts thereof, each week. Many exercises may span more than one week.

Expect that each exercise will have a pre-laboratory quiz and assignment for to submit. There may also be in laboratory quizzes.

(Instructor has the right to change lab topics and exercises when necessary)

Grading Policy

Laboratory Assignments 50%

Quizzes 40%

Participate / citizenship / attendance: 10%.

Attendance Policy

Attendance to all laboratories is mandatory. Due to the labor and availability of the laboratory set up there will be no makeup.

It is poor citizenship to be an interloper in a laboratory section you have not enrolled in. The laboratory sections are limited in attendance and size for safety reasons. Do not count on coming to another section for your convenience or perceived needs. Come to the section you are registered for.

SFA AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY POLICY
(referencing university policy, 6.7)

Attendance and punctuality are core skills to have as an engaged student and for a successful career. Therefore, all agriculture faculty have adopted the following policy for unexcused absences.

• Miss one lab period, no letter grade reduction.
• Miss two labs, letter grade reduction 10% (after that it will be additional 10% per lab reduction off of total lab assignment)
• Miss 3 labs results in failure
Excuses can either be provided as hard copy or electronically. **Documentation for excused absences is due within seven days of the absence**, and no documentation from previous absences will be accepted after the Friday before finals week at 5 PM.

For reference, below are examples of excused absences.

1. Approved university activities (require documentation from sponsor and advanced notice, see below)
2. Death or major illness of an immediate family member (requires documentation and notice as soon as possible)
3. Major illness of yourself (requires a doctor’s note).

If you miss class for any other reason and feel your absence should be excused, you must provide me with a typed memo explaining why the absence should be excused and provide appropriate documentation. This memo must be provided within one week of the absence. All other absences are considered unexcused.

**How assessment scores are calculated**

The student’s final grade in lab is to be determined by the percentage of points earned throughout the semester and broken down as the following:

A (100-90%) B (89-80%) C (79-70%) D (69-60%) F (<60%)

**Note: Your grade in lab is separate from lecture. Lab grade is not used to calculate lecture grade.**

**Laboratory Assignments**

- You are responsible for completing and submitting a lab report or assignment for each lab according to the due dates on the laboratory agenda. Due dates may be adjusted by the instructor as necessary with notice.
- You will primarily be responsible for recording data and observations; however, you may be tasked with additional requirements on occasion.

**Quizzes**

- Lab quizzes must be completed online.
- Lab quizzes will cover information related to that week’s lab including, but not limited to, broad concepts, safety, chemicals, and methodology.
- In-class, or post-class, quizzes will be conducted according to the laboratory agenda and will test students on laboratory concepts. These may be either written or a test of laboratory skills (practical).
- Pop quizzes may arise upon occasion and some quizzes are assigned prior to departing the laboratory.
- **Instructor has the latitude to give quizzes during dead week**
**Participation**

- Be familiar enough with the material to contribute to the group discussion.
- Be familiar enough with the material to respond to conceptual or process questions about the laboratory asked by your instructor.
- You must participate in the work your group is conducting in order to receive full credit.
- These are experiential and in order to successfully retain the information you will need to have actively participated in conducting the experiment.
- Read and follow instructions to ensure that you are conducting your laboratory activity appropriately.
- If you are confused, please ask questions for clarification.
- If you discover your preparation is lacking, please try to re-read the instructions, and discuss with your laboratory partner(s) prior to asking the question amongst the entire laboratory group.
- The lab must be left in proper order concerning organization, cleanliness, and safety, monitor and conduct clean-up activities throughout the laboratory period.
- Work with other laboratory groups to ensure that all equipment and supplies are returned to the correct location.
- The cleanup process must be completed by the end of class.
- Leaving lab before your area is cleaned up will result in a loss of points.
- Please take the initiative to talk to your instructor if you are having problems with the class.
- Make-up labs will not be allowed except for special exceptions determined and approved by instructor.

**Laboratory Rules and Safety**

Proper dress is required.

- Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required in the lab.
- Long hair must be tied back.
- The student is required to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) and bring to the laboratory. This includes the purchase of:
  - Laboratory goggles or wrap around safety glasses.
- No horseplay or improper use of chemicals or equipment.
- You break the equipment; you pay for the equipment before grades will be released.
- Not adhering to these rules will result in immediate dismissal from the laboratory and a zero grade on that laboratory report or assignment.
- No independent experiments

We are handling soil for the exercises in the laboratory and therefore full PPE (goggles or safety glasses).

Bring and wear your own PPE to every laboratory meeting. THERE WILL BE NO LABORATORY OWNED LOANER PPE provided by the instructor or University as there is no way to clean and sanitize any such PPE at this
Academic Integrity (4.1)

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Student Wellness and Well-Being**

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health, and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby) www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents

936.468.7249 dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202 www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp

936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”

Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
· Wellness Coaching
· Alcohol and Other Drug Education www.sfasu.edu/thehub

936.468.4008

thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:

· Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
· National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
· Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)

johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Academic Civility Statement

Students are expected to interact with professors and peers in a respectful manner that enhances the learning environment. Professors may require a student who deviates from this expectation to leave the face-to-face (or virtual) classroom learning environment for that class session (and potentially subsequent class sessions) for a specific amount of time. In addition, the professor might consider the university disciplinary process (for Academic Affairs/Student Life) for egregious or continued disruptive behavior.

Academic Excellence Statement

SFASU holds high expectations for students to assume responsibility for their own individual learning. Students are also expected to achieve academic excellence by:

· honoring SFASU core values.
· upholding high standards of habit and behavior.
· maintaining excellence through class attendance and punctuality.
· preparing for active participation in all learning experiences.
· putting forth their best individual effort.
· continually improving as independent learners.
· engaging in extracurricular opportunities that encourage personal and academic growth.
· reflecting critically upon feedback and applying these lessons to meet future challenges.

Academic Affairs Service Statement

SFASU faculty, staff, and students are expected to model responsible citizenship through service activities that promote personal and academic growth while enhancing the university, local, regional, national, and global communities. These activities will foster a culture of
academic/public engagement that contributes to the achievement of the ’s mission and core values.

University Policy

Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the policies and information contained in the Stephen F. Austin State University Student Handbook.

Academic Conduct

Any student guilty of academic dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism in academic work will result in failure of lab.