SWS 4550/5551: Soils, Water, and Public Health
Distance Education (DE) Course – Online
Summer C 2015
3 credit hours

Instructor:
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Office Hours
By appointment online, by phone, or by Skype
Please email to schedule a time to talk.

Course Meeting Times
Asynchronous distance education format. All lectures were recorded in advance and may be
streamed at any time throughout the semester.

Chat Session: A weekly internet chat session will be held on Mondays at 6 pm ET. These chat
sessions are optional, but serve as excellent opportunities to review the previous week’s material.

Prerequisites
Undergraduate: CHEM 2045 and 2046 and BSC 2009 or 2010 – or consent of instructor
Graduate: none

Course Website
The course website is through the UF e-Learning portal https://lss.at.ufl.edu/. Log into Canvas to
access. You will need your UF username and password to log in.

Course Description and Goal
The course explores important instances where soil/water science and public health intersect;
how humans are exposed to environmental contaminants; and how public health threats are
addressed. The overarching goal of the course is for students to take an integrative approach to
characterizing, evaluating, and managing current public health problems by applying basic
concepts from the fields of soil/water science and public health.
Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Describe the disciplines of public and environmental health and soil and water science, and discuss issues/legislation that shape the fields
- Describe basic soil characteristics and physical/chemical/biological processes that enable preliminary estimates of how various contaminants may move, react, and dissipate in dynamic soil and aquatic environments
- Describe various physical/chemical/biological hazards and protective factors
- Describe factors which influence exposure pathways, exposure behaviors, and health outcomes as they relate to soil properties, water/soil quality, and water/soil management
- Highlight important and/or innovative strategies and techniques from the field of soil and water science that serve to protect and promote public health
- Describe processes of site evaluation, risk assessment, data reporting, and public communication
- Explain how risk evaluations develop into standards
- Describe soil, water, and public health topics from different geographical perspectives

Student Learning Outcomes and Competencies
This course contributes to the following Soil and Water Science Department learning outcomes and expected competencies:

- Graduate students
  - Demonstrate comprehensive understanding in soil and water sciences.
  - Synthesize and interpret scientific findings.
  - Employ scientific methods to generate new information and knowledge.
  - Demonstrate the ability to apply the scientific methods learned in the program to problems in soil and water sciences (transferable skills).
- Undergraduate students
  - Critically evaluate the sustainability of water resources in relation to human needs and natural ecosystem function (water science specialization) and soil forming factors and soil morphology related to field-scale processes (soil science specialization).
  - Demonstrate quantitative problem-solving abilities by applying, analyzing, and synthesizing content knowledge related to soil and water chemistry and physics.
**Required Texts**

- The textbook for the course, *Environmental and Pollution Science, 2nd Edition*, Academic Press, by Pepper, Gerba, and Brusseau, is available as an ebook via the UF Library Course Reserve System ARES. Students will have access to the ebook while they are registered for the course, such that there is no need to purchase the book.

**Other Assigned Readings**

Readings will be assigned and provided in electronic format as the course progresses, so **be sure to check the course webpage each week for posted materials**. Many of the readings are listed in the Course Topics, Schedule, and Due Dates table at the end of the syllabus.

**What YOU Should Expect From Your INSTRUCTOR and This Course**

- Recorded lectures and tutorials
- Timely and thorough answers to questions posted to the discussion board and in emails – but do not expect instantaneous replies from me or your coursemates. Plan accordingly!
- Respect, guidance, and constructive criticism in feedback to submitted assignments

**What Your INSTRUCTOR Expects From YOU in This Course**

Daily:

- Check for new **Announcements** on the course webpage

Weekly:

- Check the **Weekly Unit**. You are responsible for completing each unit **in its entirety** within its assigned week. Posted information will follow the Course Topics, Schedule, and Due Dates table at the end of this syllabus.
- Post comments/questions to the discussion board and/or blogs.
- Complete any posted assignments.

On due dates:

- Submit assignments through the appropriate Weekly Unit by 11pm ET.

Always:

- Be respectful to your coursemates and instructor.

**Instructional Methods and Course Technology**

This course is delivered completely online and in an asynchronous format (i.e. no live meeting times are required, although optional “live” chat sessions will be held). Course content and assignments are posted in Weekly Units. Weekly Units typically include recorded lectures, reading assignments, and discussion board postings. In addition, some Weekly Units include homework assignments, quizzes, and/or exams.

**Student Evaluation**

Grades will be determined by the accumulation of points received for the completion of the following course requirements. **Ten percentage points are subtracted for each day an assignment is late, and no late assignments will be accepted 3 or more days after the due**
date. Work completed for other courses cannot be “recycled” for this course. All work must be original. If you have a question about modifying previous work, please ask first. Make up exams are rarely authorized.

** Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues must be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You must e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx).

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx).

**Graduate students (SWS 5551):**

1. Term paper 250 pts
   (Including 25 pts for outline)

2. Exams (3 @ 150 pts each) 450 pts
3. Peer Review of term papers: 100 pts
4. Weekly Quizzes 180 pts
5. Weekly Discussion 110 pts

Total: 1090 points

**Undergraduate students (SWS4550)**

1. Exams (3 @ 150 points each) 450 pts
2. Review grad student papers 100 pts
3. Weekly Quizzes 180 pts
4. Weekly Discussion 110 pts

Total: 840 points

**Grading Scale:**

100-92% = A; 91-90% = A-; 89-87% = B+; 86-82% = B; 81-79% = B-; 78-75% = C+; 74-70% = C; 69-65% = D+; 64-60% = D; ≤59% = E

**Note:** Please keep a copy of all returned communication in case you have a question regarding your final grade.

**Requirement Descriptions**

- **Three exams** will be given throughout the semester. Each exam will be designed to require no more than one hour for most students, and will be comprised of a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Students will have considerable flexibility as to when they take the exams within a window of approximately 36 hours. All exams will be proctored through ProctorU, requiring
students to register for each exam through ProctorU. More information on ProctorU is provided on a separate document.

- Numerous quizzes will be associated with the lecture and reading components. The quizzes are open book. Two attempts will be allowed for each quiz.

- Discussion topics will be added to the Canvas site each Monday. Student responses to the posts should be thoughtful. This will be a good forum for students to share opinions and individual experiences that pertain to the topic. Responses are due by the following Sunday at 11 pm ET.

- A term project is required for graduate students (250 points). Students will write a paper on a topic relevant to the course material. The term paper subject matter will be selected by the student in consultation with the instructor and agreed to no later than June 12, 2015, when the (graded: 5%) final outline is due. The final draft of the term paper is due July 20, 2015. Late papers will be penalized 5% for each day after the deadline. Papers will not be accepted after July 26. Papers will be reviewed for plagiarism by Turnitin. Review the university policy on plagiarism. Papers should be approximately 10 to 15 pages in length, 12 font, double spaced. The papers should be fully referenced. Style of citation is up to the individual.

- Students will review papers written by fellow students. The reviews will be completely anonymous to all but the instructor (i.e., names will be removed from both the paper and the review prior to return). Reviews should be approximately one page in length (12 font, double spaced) and will be due August 3, 2015. Reviews should contain a summary of the paper and a critical evaluation.

**Course Policies**

- Students are responsible for all information in the assigned texts and information presented in class materials.
- Students are expected to read all assigned materials prior to contributing to discussion boards or completing related assignments/activities.
- Students should always consider the possibility of technology failure, and complete assignments to allow adequate time to correct for potential technology problems.
- Students are expected to communicate respectfully with their coursemates and instructor. Disrespectful or threatening interactions will not be tolerated. Students in violation of these expectations will be given ONE warning. If the behavior continues or is repeated, the student will be banned from the discussion board and will automatically lose all subsequent discussion board-related points.
- Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Any violations of this policy will result in a zero for the given assignment, and the zero will be figured into the final grade. Additionally, students may be subject to University disciplinary action, including possible suspension/expulsion.

**Academic Honesty**

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.” You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."
It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honorcode.php.

**Software Use**
All faculty, staff and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

**Technical Support**
For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml

**Campus Helping Resources**
Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the University’s counseling resources. Resources are available for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling and Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. The Career Resource Center provides support ranging from career planning to major exploration.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/*
  Counseling Services
  Groups and Workshops
  Outreach and Consultation
  Self-Help Library
  Training Programs
  Community Provider Database

- *Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/*
- *University Police Department, 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies*

**Services for Students with Disabilities**
The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Course Evaluation
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints to submit a complaint.