

*Camosun College*  
*ENVR 205: SOILS MODULE*

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
Spring 2003

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**A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides students with an opportunity to learn fundamental concepts and field skills of pedology (soil science). An introductory classroom lecture will introduce the processes of soil formation and the physical characteristics associated with different soil types identified in the Canadian System of Soil Classification. Soil description and classification techniques will be taught and practiced at two field sites (Interurban campus and the Metchosin property), using RIC (Resource Inventory Committee) field cards within the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification framework.

**B. LOGISTICS**

There will be one lecture for everyone, and two field days in smaller groups. On field days, transportation and field equipment will be provided by the Environmental Technology program. On these days, we will meet at the ET van at **8:30 AM sharp! Don't be late!** If you prefer to make independent travel arrangements, please contact me ahead of time so that we don't wait around for you.

Students are responsible for bringing:

rain gear, warm layers, gloves*	sturdy, waterproof boots
ruler, pens, pencils, etc.	sunscreen, hat*
basic first aid supplies	bag lunch / snacks
water	ENVR 107A Lab 6 (Site Description)
notebook and plastic bag to cover it	<i>THIS MANUAL!!</i>

\*dress and pack according to the weather forecast.

**C. ATTENDANCE**

Students must attend the entire lecture and both field days. Failure to do so will result in an incomplete for the course. There will be no opportunity to redo any of the components until the Spring, 2004 semester.

**D. SAFETY**

Outdoor field work can be fun and satisfying, but it is also serious and unpredictable – people get injured in unlikely (usually embarrassing) situations. Please work carefully and don't take silly risks.

## D. EVALUATION

Your mark in this course will be calculated like this:

In-class quiz	10%
Field skills	25%
Form #1	15%
Form #2	30%
Participation	20%

- In-class quiz: The last twenty minutes of the soils lecture on Monday, May 12, will be used for a brief quiz. The questions will be based directly on the lecture. A small amount of cramming time will be provided.
- Field skills: By RIC standards, there are between thirty and forty different parameters that must be addressed in the field during a site and soil assessment. Assessment techniques will be both discussed and demonstrated for students during the first field outing. On the second field day, individual students will be asked to perform one or two of these techniques and will be marked on their degree of confidence and competence.
- Field forms: Students will submit their assessment cards at the end of the first and second days. The forms will be marked for thoroughness, correct notation and technical terms, accuracy and legibility. **Forms must be handed in at the end of each day.**
- Participation: This should be a gimme. All students will start with full marks in this category. Deductions will only occur in cases of rude, reckless or otherwise distinctly unpleasant behaviour (e.g. lateness, not paying attention, ignoring instructions, intentional trampling of vegetation, smoking upwind, refusing shovel duty, inappropriate gear, nudity, equipment neglect, disregarding individual and group safety, bone-chilling lack of enthusiasm, sudden flight, etc.). Naturally, I doubt any of this will happen.

## E. SCHEDULE

### **May 12, 1:00 – 4:00:**

- Classroom lecture and quiz.

### **May 15, 16, 20, 21** (only one of these days applies to you, check your timetable):

- Full day at Interurban campus (small groups).
- One soil pit will be dug per group.
- RIC forms will be taught and practiced.
- NOTE: They have a great cafeteria for lunch!

### **May 22, 23** (only one of these days applies to you, check your timetable):

- Full day at the Metchosin property (larger groups).
- One soil pit will be dug per group.
- RIC forms will be done independently; field skills will be tested.