

*Camosun College*  
*ENVR 205: SOILS MODULE*

COURSE OUTLINE

Spring 2004

Instructor: Chris Ayles

Office: Ewing 304  
Email: [cayles@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:cayles@camosun.bc.ca)

Phone: 370-3372

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides students with an opportunity to learn fundamental concepts and field skills of pedology (soil science). A 3-hour classroom lecture will introduce the processes of soil formation and the physical characteristics of 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 the RISC (Resource Inventory Standards Committee) field cards that are standard in the BC Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification system.

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 wish to make independent travel arrangements, you must 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 2005 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	15%
Field skills	20%
Form #1	15%
Form #2	35%
Participation	15%

- In-class quiz: The last twenty minutes of the soils lecture on Monday, May 10, 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 RISC 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 unpleasant behaviour (e.g. lateness, unpreparedness, not paying attention, ignoring instructions, intentionally trampling vegetation, littering, refusing shovel duty, neglecting equipment, disregarding individual and group safety, sudden flight, etc.). Naturally, I doubt any of this will happen.

## E. SCHEDULE

### **May 10, 1:00 – 4:00:**

- Classroom lecture and quiz.

### **May 18 – 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.
- RISC forms will be taught and practiced.
- NOTE: They have a great cafeteria for lunch!

### **June 8, 9** (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.
- RISC forms will be done independently; field skills will be tested.