



## COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/envr.html>

Ω Please note: the College electronically stores this outline for five (5) years only.  
 It is **strongly recommended** you keep a copy of this outline with your academic records.  
 You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities.

### 1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Dr. Vic Levson		
(b)	Office Hours:	By appointment		
(c)	Location:	Fisher 344D		
(d)	Phone:	370-3506	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	vlevson@telus.net		
(f)	Website:			

### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

*(No changes are to be made to these Intended Learning Outcomes as approved by the Education Council of Camosun College.)*

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Conduct field classifications for local soil types.
2. Classify the biogeoclimatic site series code using soil moisture, soil richness, and indicator vegetation.
3. Execute a site description in the field.

### 3. Required Materials

- (a) Reference text (provided) - Canadian System of Soil Classification
- (b) Lab manual (provided)

### 4. Course Content and Schedule

#### 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 9:00 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, sunscreen, hat\*, basic first aid supplies, bag lunch / snacks, water, ENVR 107A Lab 6 (Site Description), notebook and plastic bag to cover it, the lab manual.

\*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 following Spring 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.

## E. SCHEDULE

May 6, 1:00 – 4:00:

- Classroom lecture and quiz.

May 23, 27-29 (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!

June 13, 14 (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.

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Your mark in this course will be calculated like this:

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

In-class quiz: The last twenty minutes of the soils lecture 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: 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, equipment neglect, disregarding individual and group safety, bone-chilling lack of enthusiasm, sudden flight, etc.). Naturally, I doubt any of this will happen.

## 6. Grading System

### Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

## Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3<sup>rd</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

## 7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

### LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca).

### STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.