

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**SWS 4932/5247 SPRING 2020**  
**Hydric Soils**  
**2 Credits**

**Instructors:** L. Rex Ellis  
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**Course Overview**

The course is intended for those wishing to learn about the formation of hydric soils and how they are identified in the field. A working knowledge of soil properties, formation, and chemistry is assumed and will be expanded upon to better understand the structure and application of hydric soil indicators. The primary emphasis of the course is field and off-site identification of hydric soils. There is no course textbook. All reading material will be provided by the instructors.

**Course Objectives - Students successfully completing the course will be able to:**

1. Understand landscape-level soil/hydrology relationships
2. Understand the biogeochemical processes leading to the formation of hydric soils
3. Understand the regulatory context in which hydric soil identification occurs
4. Identify areas on the landscape likely to be a wetland using aerial photography, LiDAR, and field-based vegetation clues
5. Excavate and identify hydric soils in the field using shovels and hand augers
6. Identify hydric soils from field descriptions and photographs

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Format:** pre-recorded lectures and weekly live chat session on **THURSDAY** evenings at 8pm

**Frequency:** Spring semester

**Textbook:** None (will provide links to relevant publications)

**Representative Supplemental Readings:**

Course website: lots of additional information, homeworks, study questions, student outlines visit frequently. (Address provided in class).

**Student Responsibilities:**

1. Students are expected to study the appropriate text sections and suggested outside readings in anticipation of lecture coverage
2. Students are expected to actively participate in chat session discussions. **Chat session attendance and engagement is strongly recommended.**
3. Students are expected to demonstrate their mastery of presented material by passing written examinations and successfully completing assigned homework.

### **Student Evaluation:**

1. One examination will be given; a comprehensive final (30%). **Make-up exams are only authorized by instructor and must be justified and authenticated.** See UF policies at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.
2. Homework sets will be assigned and will be graded (30%). Late homework assignments are penalized 20% per day. **You cannot pass the course unless you complete each course requirement.**
3. Field Training and Calibration: A weekend field trip will teach students how to identify hydric soils in the field. This experience is worth 40% of your final grade (20% for each day). In the event that a student CANNOT attend the field training, an alternative assignment will be available (extensive field assessment in your local area).

### **Grading Scale:**

Course grades will be determined by summing all scores and dividing by the maximum score possible (400 points) x 100 to obtain a percentage score: 100-92 = A, 91-90 = A-, 89-88 = B+, 87-81 = B, 80-79 = B-, 78-70 = C, 69-60 = D, <60 = Fail. The instructor reserves the right to **add 0-3 points to the final percentage score** on the basis of meaningful class participation, demonstrated student interest, and overall student dedication. See UF policies at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### **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.

### **Campus Helping Resources**

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://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/](http://www.crc.ufl.edu/)*

### **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. The University encourages students with disabilities to follow these procedures as early as possible in the semester.

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)