

## CONS 405G: Soil and Water Conservation - Spring 2020

**Instructor:** Dr. Joel Gruver

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**Office hours:** MW 9-10 11-12

**Class meeting time and location:** MWTF12-12:50 pm in KH 305

**Text:** No text – readings from a wide variety of sources will be assigned

### **Course Description:**

This course explores the science and practice of soil and water resource management. The course begins with an overview of the processes that formed Illinois' soil and water resources and their dramatic alteration by man. Next, we will discuss the historical development of interest in resource conservation and the current status of IL's natural, agricultural and urban ecosystems. The rest of the course will focus on the science and practice of soil and water resource management in a wide variety of rural and urban contexts.

### **Course Objectives:**

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Describe the formation, alteration and current status of IL's soil & water resources
- Describe the historical development and current status of soil & water resource conservation in IL
- Apply scientific principles to soil and water management problems in urban and rural environments

### **Grade Determination:**

Interview Archive (including PIAs)	30 %	A	93 - 100	C	73-76
Quizzes	25 %	A-	90 – 92	C-	70-72
Reading Qs	20 %	B+	87-89	D+	67-69
Final exam	10 %	B	83-86	D	63-66
Attendance	10 %	B-	80-82	D-	60-62
Curious about Conservation project	5 %	C+	77-79	F	< 60

Reading questions will be assigned most weeks. Answers must be submitted on the designated due date (normally using Western Online) for full credit. All steps must be shown for quantitative problems. Answers to the reading questions will be discussed at the start of class most Fridays followed by a short quiz covering the week's topic. Interview archive Qs will be assigned regularly and answers must be submitted on time for full credit. 5 Personal Initiative Activities will be documented using the Interview Archive. The Curious about Conservation project will be explained in detail after spring break.

**Attendance and deadlines:**

All students who miss 5 or fewer classes will receive an attendance grade of 100%.  
 Students will lose 20% of their attendance grade for each additional class that they miss.  
 Assignments submitted after assigned dates will lose 20% for each day that they are late.  
 Make-up quizzes are only an option for students who communicate in advance or have an emergency that prevents communication.

**Lecture Schedule**

<b>Week #</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	1/13	1/15	1/16	1/17	The making of IL
2	-	1/22	1/23	1/24	The breaking of IL
3	1/27	1/29	1/30	1/31	Emergence of a conservation ethic
4	2/3	2/5	2/6	2/7	IL's natural resources TODAY
5	2/10	-	2/13	2/14	The city solution?
6	2/17	2/19	2/20	2/21	IL agroecosystems
7	2/24	2/26	2/27	2/28	Understanding soil erosion
8	3/2	3/4	3/5	3/6	Soil conservation
9	---	---	---	---	<b>Spring Break</b>
10	3/16	3/18	3/19	3/20	The hydrologic cycle
11	3/23	3/25	3/26	3/27	Agricultural drainage
12	3/30	4/1	4/2	4/3	Stormwater management
13	4/6	4/18	4/9	4/10	Water scarcity
14	4/13	4/15	4/16	4/17	Waste management
15	4/20	4/22	4/23	4/24	Mining
16	4/27	4/29	4/30	5/1	Multi-functional landscapes
17	5/4	5/6	5/7	5/8	The future of conservation
18		<b>Monday 5/11 @ 1 pm FINAL EXAM</b>			

**Academic honesty:**

**NO CHEATING, PLAGIARISM, OR OTHER VIOLATIONS OF THE WIU ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY WILL BE TOLERATED.**

<http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.shtml>

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:**

Detailed information regarding student rights and responsibilities can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/student/> . It is your responsibility to be familiar with the posted information.

**Special Accommodations:**

In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), special accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to my attention, as I am not legally permitted to inquire about the needs of specific students. Students who may require special assistance in emergency evacuations (i.e. fire, tornado, etc.) should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow in such an emergency. **Contact Disability Support Services at 298-2512 for additional services.**

**Attention Education Majors:**

The changes within the Illinois State Teaching License requirements, students are required to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course in order to meet state requirements. With the university's +/- grading system, receiving a grade below a "C-" will require you to retake this course or find a substitute course to meet School of Agriculture graduation requirements.