FIELD STUDIES OF SOILS IN CALIFORNIA ECOSYSTEMS
Soil Science 105/205

June 25 – July 16, 2018

Department of Land, Air and Water Resources
University of California, Davis

The course comprises 18 days of intensive classroom and field study, mostly in the field, away from Davis. Five quarter units. The course is offered through UC Summer Sessions (SSC 105/SSC 205 Special Session). See the web site at:

http://summer-sessions.ucdavis.edu/courses/field_courses.html

For SSC 205, an extra written project that focuses on the application of some aspect of the course to a natural resource issue that involves soils is required. Please contact Randy Southard to discuss the scope of the graduate project prior to registration for SSC 205.

Instructor: Randy Southard, rjsouthard@ucdavis.edu, 530-758-2872

Grading: Exam, course summary written report, field exercise, and quizzes. For SSC 105, each account for 25% of the grade. For SSC 205, these four assignments, plus the additional written project, each account for 20% of the grade.


Schedule:

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5 Thursday Soils on volcanic landscapes, southern Cascades, part I. Day Bench.

6 Friday Soils and agriculture in the Fall River Valley; soils on volcanic landscapes, southern Cascades, part II, Redding.

7 Saturday Soils on valley fill, Sacramento Valley, Part III. Red Bluff.

8 Sunday Coast Range hodge-podge: Coast Range valley fill, serpentinite, and Clear Lake volcanics. Hopland Research and Extension Center.

9 Monday Hillslope transects and mapping on Franciscan graywacke Hopland Research and Extension Center.

10 Tuesday Hillslope transects and mapping on Franciscan greywacke continued. Hopland Research and Extension Center.

11 Wednesday Coastal redwoods and the ecological staircase, Mendocino Coast. Van Damme State Park.

12 Thursday Ecological staircase. Return to Davis.

16 Monday Exam 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

19 Thursday Course summary written report due 5 pm.

25 Wednesday Written project for SSC 205 due 5 pm.

SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT AND COSTS

For classroom and field:
1 10x hand lens - leather lace for neck lanyard (Bookstore, Target)
1 8-1/2 x 11 3-ring binder with notebook paper
1 8-1/2 x 11 clip board for field note taking
1 Pocket notebook for miscellaneous field notes, pedologic Haiku and rap
1 Plastic ruler
1 Felt-tip pen (e.g., Flair) with black ink for soil map work
1 2-m locking steel measuring tape (Walmart, Target, Davis Lumber)
1 Road map/atlas of California (UCD bookstore, Target, WalMart)
Pencils with erasers, pencil sharpener
1 Keys to Soil Taxonomy, 2014, 12th edition, (see above)
1 Sturdy knife with sheath or hand trowel for soil excavation (Target, CVS, WalMart, Davis Lumber)
1 Calculator

Personal
Warm sleeping bag (bring a sheet for those warm nights), ground cloth, small tent (optional), air mattress or foam pad, towels, toilet articles, small first aid kit, sun screen, insect repellent, clothes for field (including hat, field boots, warm jacket and rain gear) and classroom (laundromats occasionally available during the trip), and water bottle for drinking water. Cooking equipment and utensils are provided. No backpacking is required, but some hiking in the field is required.

Sandals and open-toed shoes are not permitted for field work.

Luggage limited to: 1 backpack, suitcase, or duffel bag, 1 day pack, sleeping bag, pad, tent.

Estimate of Cost
A course fee of $300.00, in addition to Summer Session fees, partially covers transportation, lodging, and most meals while in the field.

Books, personal supplies, and other meals while in field are not included.

HEALTH INSURANCE IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COURSE FEE.

* While in Davis, out-of-towners can usually make arrangements to stay with others in the class. Otherwise, make reservations at a local motel (See http://travel.yahoo.com/p-hotel-474205-davis_hotels-i for more information).

See Summer Session Web Sites:

http://summer-sessions.ucdavis.edu/fees/index.html
http://summer-sessions.ucdavis.edu/courses/field_courses.html