

# Ecampus | SOIL 511



## SOIL: A Natural and Societal Resource

**Course Time/Credits** Online, Summer term; 24 June – 6 Sept 2019, 3 term credits

**Course Description** Serves degree- and non-degree-seeking graduate learners who want knowledge about *soils* and *soil science* but have limited academic or work experience in general science topics. Understanding soil physical, chemical, and biological properties a) promotes informed soil use and management and b) supports individual to global societal values.

**Prerequisite** Graduate standing: a 4-year undergraduate degree from an accredited institution. Applies to degree- and non-degree-seeking learners.

**Co-Requisites** None. Call OSU Ecampus **800-667-1465**, review online Graduate Admission requirements <https://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/about/admissions-requirements.htm>, or request a General Syllabus from Dr. Leon H. Liegel---see email address at bottom of page.

**Why Take SOIL 511?** Curriculum facilitates graduate degrees or certificates; continuing education, licensure, and professional development units (**CEUs, PDUs**); and self-improvement goals. Online Discussions encourage learner-learner and instructor-learner interactions. Students link Discussions with new weekly knowledge to identify, analyze, and summarize a chosen “Soils Problem” or “Soils Topic” in a short Case Study that replaces a Final Exam. For example: How does soil moisture affect plants grown in patio pots, community gardens, a family farm, or corporate lands?

**Course Rationale** No text is required. Course non-technical and technical readings, videos, narrated slide shows, and assignments provide practical information about how soil management influences world food production, fosters sustainable production of agricultural and forest crops, provides clean water, allows proper waste disposal, and aids water recycling. Learners 1) identify activities that positively or negatively impact soils in natural and disturbed environments and 2) assess effects of these impacts on societal goals.

**Major Learner Outcomes** Identify and compare factors that motivate individuals, landowners, land managers, politicians, and other stakeholders to choose *use, enhancement, or protection* of soil resources. Such choices affect how individuals, families, and local to national institutions and governments prioritize soil management across rural, urban, and mixed-use landscapes.

### Information/Co-Instructor Contacts

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