

GEOL/ENVI 104

Soil: Science & Sustainability

Meeting time & location

MTWRF
9:30 am – 10:45 am
Remote, Outside

Moodle.macalester.edu
Zoom!

Macalester College
Mod 5 2021



Course Description:

From the food we eat, to the air we breathe, soil shapes our lives. Soil forms in response to local conditions, recording regional climate variability (if you know how to look). Soil is also one of the most important carbon sinks, so the way we interact with soil has the potential to seriously impact our changing climate. However, as an important agricultural resource, we must continue to utilize soil to feed Earth's growing population. To better understand this under-appreciated layer of Earth, this class will investigate soil formation; variability between types of soil; and the utility of soil in our world today.

Professor Anna Lindquist

I prefer to be called Anna (*she/her/hers*)

If you prefer to be more formal, you are welcome to call me Dr. Lindquist or Professor Lindquist.

Office Hours

Zoom Office Hours during Friday 9-11 am and by appointment, I also can be reached by email and on Slack. Conditions permitting, I am happy to set up a time to meet up outside (we could even grab a coffee – my treat).

I assume you all come to this class with unique sets of skills and experiences. It takes bravery to ask for help when needed. It helps me and enriches the class when you take the time to chat with me about nothing in particular. Both experiences are valuable. I promise to respect you and earn your trust when you take the time to talk to me.

Contact Information

Office: OLRI 115
Email: alindqu1@macalester.edu

Phone: 651-696-6333
(x6333 from campus phones)

Course Policies and Information

Technology and Software: I plan to use Zoom, Moodle, VoiceThread and the Google suite for this class.

We will meet on Zoom about three times each week. If possible, it's great to have your camera on so we can see each other. I understand that this might not be possible. Finally, I use Moodle to post course (lectures, readings, videos, etc.), homework, grades, study guides, and weekly plans. Please be sure to check the Moodle page often for updates and information.

Most importantly, I will post a weekly summary each week on Moodle. This summary will contain the information needed for each week (readings, videos, assignments, extra information etc.) Please use this document!!

I will use Moodle as a central hub for our class. You should expect to find anything you need there.

Late work: I expect your work to be handed in when it is due. If this is not possible, please discuss it with me before the deadline.

Missing class meetings: I understand that weekly Zoom meetings can be tiring and won't always be possible. Please do your best to attend. If you don't expect to be able to attend any/most Zoom sessions, please email me so we can discuss this at the beginning of the Module.

Preceptor: Carly Ross will be the preceptor.

Note on Zoom: I do not require cameras on for Zoom, but very much appreciate the courtesy of you having your cameras on when possible. At this point we've established that zoom classes aren't everyone's favorite thing, but I have found them to be more enjoyable and more productive when you have your video on and when you engage. PLEASE, please speak up and say something, or type comments in the chat. When possible, have your video on. It's too easy to check out otherwise and that checking out is felt by me and the rest of the class.

Course Materials

There is no textbook for this course. I will instead be posting videos, slides with lectures, and readings. If you would like a textbook to use as a reference, I recommend *Know Soil, Know Life* by Lindbo, Kozlowski, Robinson; 2012 (pictured below).

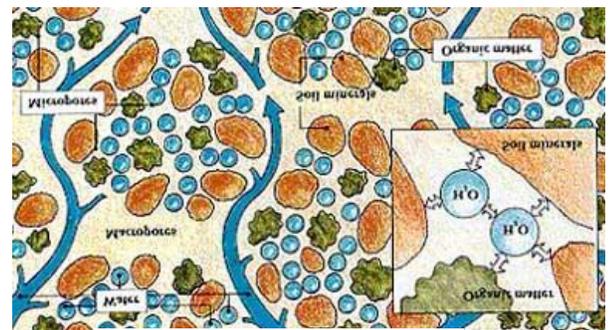
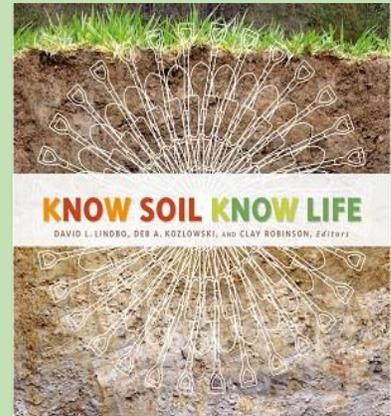


Image courtesy of FAO of the UN.

Learning Objectives

Students will...

- ... describe soil formation and basic soil properties.
- ... compare observable and measurable soil properties with soil formational conditions
- ... explain how land use is related to soil properties and how it affects soil health
- ... evaluate soil's potential impact on climate change – both positive and negative

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Days	Topic
1	May 19-21	Soil physical properties
2	May 24-28	Pedogenesis and soil horizons, soil water
3	May 31 – June 4	No class Monday (Memorial Day) CEC, clays, pH, and soil taxonomy
4	June 7-11	Soil carbon cycle and climate change
5	June 14-18	Land use and agricultural soils (no class Monday)
6	June 21-25	Land use and agricultural soils
7	June 28 – July 2	Land use and urban soils
8	July 5-7	No class Monday (Independence Day) Land use and pollution
Final	July 9-10	The final will consist of 2-3 longer questions and will be open note.

Class Links

Moodle:

<https://moodle.macalester.edu/>

Zoom: <https://macalester.zoom.us/j/93550617228?pwd=UTRjVF6MzBFrdZzRHBFdHhCbJUUUT09>

Google Drive folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-aUrxZPZEjzA_Yibe7Hv12shGAFsC4mx?usp=sharing

Extra Zoom info (just in case):

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://macalester.zoom.us/meeting/tJcocumurzwoGNzq9WZJ9uDqXBjL1P-LU9ya/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCrqz4qHNWSshuPRowqGY_4c-7zmGZBjY1HjUbSOQoKdyfnDsBIHuNPXfTI

Meeting ID: 935 5061 7228

Passcode: 169720

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,93550617228#,,,,*169720# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,93550617228#,,,,*169720# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 935 5061 7228

Passcode: 169720

Find your local number: <https://macalester.zoom.us/u/abuXbhpyQI>

Weekly Plan

It is my goal to have a consistent plan for each day throughout the semester.

My hope is that this will help you plan to accommodate our accelerated semester schedule and being online.

What to expect each week:

- PDF outlining what to do each week
- Voicethread slides
- Readings and additional content videos (links provided in pdf)
- There will be one homework assignment each week. These are released with the rest of the content on Friday, and are due the following week on Friday at 11:59 pm. Upload your finished work to Moodle, and please include your name in your file names!
- Post in class discussion on Moodle. Each week, you are expected to post **at least** one-two questions, responses, comments, observations, videos, etc...

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
Plan	Group discussions, meet at 9:30 am (1 hr)	Meet with small groups (30 min each)	Meet with small groups (30 min each)	Guest speaker, "in class" activity, other, meet at 9:30 am	New content and assignment released on Moodle	
Zoom meeting?	Yes	Yes, but only today or Wed	Yes, but only today or Tues	Yes	No – but I will have office hours 9 am – 11 am	Of course not!
Suggested activities (for you)	Attend and engage in group discussion, continue readings and videos	Finish readings and videos, work on week's assignment	Work on week's assignment(s), post on Slack	Try to finish assignment, flag anywhere you have questions so you can ask them tomorrow	Come by office hours to ask final questions, turn in assignment. Go over next week's pdf.	Work on primary content for the week (as highlighted on pdf), read through assignment

Grading

My goal is that you leave this course with a better understanding of the functionality, formation, and importance of soil. I believe this is best achieved by giving you many opportunities to work with the course content, collaborate with others, and try new things. Studies have shown that grading each assignment and each question does not improve learning outcomes; students get so focused on what their grade is, they don't focus on the course content. Getting things wrong is an important part of the learning process. Having the freedom to incorporate your own ideas and experiences without concern for how it matches the "correct" answer enables you to build a more robust understanding of the topics we'll address. With all of this in mind, I plan to use something called "Contract for a B." This grading plan outlines a set of expectations. If met, you will receive a B for this course. If you go above and beyond (also outlined), you can earn an A. A significant part of the work for this class will be done in collaboration with others. Please be aware that you will not be able to coast through on group work by letting the rest of your group handle the group assignments.

Note: Please tell me if you need accommodations, if you would like to take the class pass/fail, or if you have a different grade as your goal. We will determine a plan that works for you.

You are **guaranteed a grade of B** in this course if you meet all of the following conditions.

- Come to and engage in class Zoom discussions with small and large groups.
 - o I understand that life happens and you may not be able to attend all Zoom sessions. You may miss up to four (4) Zoom sessions and still maintain a B.
 - o Engaging in the discussions is also important. I appreciate, but do not require, your camera being on. Seeing each other is hugely important for remaining engaged in class. If speaking up during Zoom sessions is difficult, I encourage you to use whatever mode of engagement is best for you. Consider commenting or asking questions using the chat function or posting more on the weekly forum.
 - o With this item especially, please let me know if you think this will be difficult. I understand that many things can interfere with attending the Zoom sessions that are a part of this remote module. I do not need you to offer an excuse (but you are welcome to discuss it with me if I can help find a solution), but I am willing to be flexible on this if you anticipate it being a problem.
- Complete the weekly assignments thoughtfully, completely, and as (mostly) correctly.
 - o Each week I will have an activity for you to do. I encourage you to do these with other people – friends, family, classmates. This will give you the opportunity to discuss what you are doing and what you are observing.
 - o Associated with these activities and the week's content will be questions to answer. Please answer these thoughtfully and completely.
 - o Including pictures, short videos, or sketches describing what you observe or think about can be a great way to demonstrate thoughtfulness and support the writing you do in the response.
 - o You may have to look beyond the content posted for the week for some answers (google it, if nothing else). I am happy to answer any questions you have while working on these. Please ask questions!
 - o You are welcome to work with a classmate on these questions, but please note if you do so on your responses.
 - o Assignments are due Friday at 11:59 pm.
- Be an active participant in your group projects. We will have a couple group projects during the Module.
 - o As above, do the group project thoughtfully and well. Hand it in on time.
 - o Fill out the commentary on how you participated in the group project.
- Thoughtfully and (mostly) correctly answer the questions on the final.
- Post in the weekly forums. I won't necessarily be able to answer or respond to all posts, but I will read them. They are a useful way for me to monitor how everyone is progressing.

A note on late work: Life happens. You have 7 days of late work (one assignment 7 day, 7 assignments each 1 day late, two assignments 3 and 4 days late, etc.) without impacting your B. If this is not sufficient, please reach out to me.

To get an A: you must do everything listed above for a B, plus an end-of-module research project on a unique soil-related topic. You may do this with a partner.

Pluses and minuses in final grades: depth of answers to questions, number of missed/late assignments, degree of participation in class, etc...

Accommodations

I am committed to ensuring access to course content for students.

I am committed to ensuring access to course content for all students, including those with disabilities. If you have a disability, please meet with me early in the semester to discuss your accommodation plan. If you have not yet obtained a plan or are unsure if you have a disability that requires accommodation, please contact Disability Services: disabilityservices@macalester.edu, or call 651-696-6974.

Mental Health

I strongly encourage you to make your well-being a priority. Investing time in thinking well about yourself will help you engage more fully in your academic experience, especially during this complicated time. Remember that beyond being a student, you are a human being with your own experiences, thoughts, emotions, and identities. It is important to acknowledge any stressors you may be facing; these can be emotional, physical, cultural, financial, etc., and can affect your academic experience. I encourage you to remember that you have a body with needs. It is important to eat when you are hungry, drink water, use the restroom, and step out of (or away from) class if you are upset or need some air. Please do what is necessary so long as it does not interfere with your or others' ability to be present in the course. Outside of the classroom, strategies to support your well-being include eating and sleeping well, moving your body, and connecting with others. If you are having difficulties, please don't hesitate to contact me and/or find support from other resources, including those offered by the Hamre Center.

Inclusion

I strive to maintain a classroom environment that is inclusive of all students. This includes religious, political, racial, socioeconomic, and gender diversity. Please feel free to reach out if you feel you need accommodations (i.e. for religious holidays) or if I have not achieved this goal. If you prefer to be anonymous, use the course feedback link at the top of the moodle page. Every semester, I continue to work and learn about the best ways to be inclusive and supportive of all students in my classroom.

If needed, Macalester also has a Bias Response Team to support anyone who feels they have been affected by an incident of bias (<https://www.macalester.edu/bias-response-team/>).

Other Notes

Attendance plays an essential role in learning; you are warmly invited, encouraged, and expected to attend all synchronous class/lab meetings (whether in-person or virtual). Attendance will be important not only for your learning, but also for our ability to build a community together and maintain a sense of connection and commitment to one another during this time of imposed physical distance. Your presence in class matters.

The MAX Center is Macalester's academic resource center. I strongly encourage you to take full advantage of any and all of the excellent resources they provide there, as they are committed to supporting all students to succeed at Macalester.