

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
COURSE SYLLABUS
AGET 3383
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION ENGINEERING
3 CREDIT HOURS
SPRING 2018

LOCATION OF CLASS MEETING:
William R. Harrell Agricultural Engineering & Technology Center,
CLASS TIMES: M and W 8:00 to 8:50 AM
LOCATION OF LAB:
William R. Harrell Agricultural Engineering & Technology Center
LAB TIME: M 1:00 TO 2:50 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Joe E. Muller, Ph.D., Professor – Ag Engineering Technology
OFFICE: William R. Harrell Agricultural Engineering & Technology Center, Rm 106-C.
CONTACT INFORMATION:
AETC (936) 294 4877
E-mail: jemuller@shsu.edu

OFFICE HOURS: as posted or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course includes principles of soil and water conservation, erosion control, storm water management, structures for floodwater routing, culvert design, design of waterways, and retention basins. Plane surveying, topographic mapping, geographical information and global positioning systems will be utilized.

COURSE OUTLINE: AGET 3383 is a 2-2 course, 2 hours lecture and 2 hours laboratory per week. Lecture will include technical information, procedures, discussion, and problem solving activities. Lab will include problems and hands-on activities relating to soil and water conservation engineering.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Apply basic engineering and biological principles of soil and water management to reduce erosion in order to improve and protection the enviroment.
2. Understand principles of the hydrologic cycle.
3. Discuss issues with ground and surface water supply, quality, owwnership, and usage.
4. Understand proper use of basic soil and water conservation techniques.
5. Understand factors that affect soil and water erosion and the universal soil loss equation.
6. Determining amount of runoff given a watershed area and rainfall potential.
7. Understand principles of plane surveying and the use of GPS and GIS technology.
8. Apply basic plane and GPS surveying skills.
9. Determine topography of a given area from observations obtained during surveying activities.
10. Work with a group of classmates to identify, analyze, and determine a solution for a soil erosion or water problem.

CLASSROOM & LABORATORY PROCEDURES, ACTIVITIES, AND REQUIRED

SUPPLIES: Students are to comply with the safety policies and procedures as demonstrated and outlined in the Safety Instruction for Ag Engineering Technology Center Document.

Each student is required to wear safety glasses and appropriate clothing and shoes during all laboratory/construction sessions. Students are not to operate tools and equipment until they have received proper training and are required to follow all appropriate industry safety procedures. Students will keep the laboratory clean and in order. Laboratory sessions will not be dismissed until all tools and equipment is returned to the proper storage location and the floor is properly clean and swept.

TEXT (required)

Soil and Water Conservation Engineering, 7th Edition., by Huffman, Fangmeier, Elliot, & Workman
Publisher: American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. ISBN # 1-892769-86-7

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES ATTENDANCE POLICY:

1. Regular and punctual attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.
2. Each faculty member will keep a written record of student attendance. Students will be expected to sign in for class and labs to comply with federal guidelines.
3. If a student misses four or more classes, the student's grade may be reduced by one letter grade. Additional penalties will be up to the discretion of the professor.
4. Three unexcused or unjustified tardies or early departures are considered one absence.
5. Excused absences must be documented by the student with a letter of confirmation from the sponsoring student organization, professor, doctor, etc. Exemptions will include participation in departmental activities when prior approval is attained from the Department Chair or the sponsoring professor. Excused absences and/or approved participation in departmental activities **do not negate** student's responsibility to complete any missed assignments or tests in a timely manner.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Exam # 1	150 pts
Exam # 2	150 pts
Exam # 3	150 pts
Class attendance and performance	100 pts
Lab work and assignments (random)	300 pts
Research paper	100 pts
Final Exam	150 pts

No exams or assignments will be given at alternative times unless arrangements are made with the professor before the scheduled activity occurs.

1. At the discretion of the professor, up to a 10 % penalty may be assessed for late exams or assignments. At the discretion of the professor, a 100% essay make-up exam may be given.
2. Final Exam is comprehensive.

FIELD TRIPS: Field trips may be planned throughout the semester as student/instructor schedules and contacts with businesses and industries allow. Because of possible travel time from the SHSU campus, it may be that a field trip will take longer than normal class/lab schedules allow. If so, other class/lab release time may be given.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT: Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom or lab that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Students are prohibited from making offensive remarks, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engage in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, purchasing papers, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Any such action will result in failing that exam, research paper, assignment, or the entire course, and a letter of explanation placed in the student's file.

Cellular telephones, text messengers, any communication function on laptop computers, and/or any other similar devices **must be turned off before class or lab begins**. Arrangements for handling potential emergency situations must be arranged before the class or lab period begins at the discretion of the instructor. The use of any device that performs communication functions during any test period is prohibited. Such devices may not be used even for their calculator functions.

Failure to comply with this policy could result in expulsion from the classroom or lab, or with multiple offenses, failure of the course. These devices should not be present during a test or should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used. Even the visible presence of such a device during a test period may result in a zero for that test. The use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty (see student code of conduct) <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf#page=29>.

TOBACCO POLICY: In order to promote a healthy, safe, and aesthetically pleasing work, educational, and living environment, Sam Houston State University (SHSU) will endorse a smoke free and tobacco free environment. Tobacco products include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, and all other tobacco products. This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, employees of contractors, and visitors of Sam Houston State University on the premises of the university.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM: Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in classroom.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786) to request accommodations. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS: You will be asked to complete an on-line course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.