AG 209 Introduction to Soil Science

Syllabus
Lecture Hours/Credits: 4/4

Catalog Description

Prerequisites: RD 100, EN 060

Acquaints the student with soil concepts, plant nutrients, and their influence on plant growth. Emphasis will be placed on soil testing, nutrient deficiency symptoms, and fertilizer requirements.

Textbook and Course Materials

It is the responsibility of the student to confirm with the bookstore and/or their instructor the textbook, handbook, and any other materials required for their specific course and section. Click here to see current textbook prices at cccnj.bncollege.com.

Evaluation Assessment

Online Proctoring

All courses offered at RCSJ, whether they are web-enhanced, hybrid, or fully online, may include assessments that make use of Online Proctoring. To find out more about Online Proctoring, and to learn about the minimum technical requirements, visit rcsj.edu/elearning/online-proctoring.

Grading Distribution

Grading to be determined by individual instructors.

Individual instructors may include the following assessment(s):

- Class participation/Attendance
- Quizzes and lecture exams
- Final Exam
- Lab reports (incl. field trips)
- Project

Grading

The grading scale for each course and section will be determined by the instructor and distributed the first day of class.
Rowan College of South Jersey Core Competencies

(Based on the NJCCC General Education Foundation - August 15, 2007; Revised 2011; Adopted 2014)

This comprehensive list reflects the core competencies that are essential for all RCSJ graduates; however, each program varies regarding competencies required for a specific degree. Critical thinking is embedded in all courses, while teamwork and personal skills are embedded in many courses.

1. **Written and Oral Communication**: Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.
2. **Quantitative Knowledge and Skills**: Students will use appropriate mathematical and statistical concepts and operations to interpret data and to solve problems.
3. **Scientific Knowledge and Reasoning**: Students will use the scientific method of inquiry, through the acquisition of scientific knowledge.
4. **Technological Competency**: Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.
5. **Society and Human Behavior**: Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.
6. **Humanistic Perspective**: Students will analyze works in the fields of art, history, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.
7. **Historical Perspective**: Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.
8. **Global and Cultural Awareness**: Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.
9. **Ethical Reasoning and Action**: Students will understand ethical issues and situations.
10. **Information Literacy**: Students will address an information need by locating, evaluating, and effectively using information.

**AG 209 Core Competencies**

This course focuses on three of RCSJ’s Core Competencies:

- **Add Core Competencies here**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Successful completion of AG 209 will help students:</th>
<th>RCSJ Core Competencies</th>
<th>Evaluation / Assessment (Additional means of evaluation may be included by individual instructors)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Name and differentiate between the three soil separates. |                        | • Class participation/Attendance  
• Quizzes and lecture exams  
• Final Exam  
• Lab reports (incl. field trips)  
• Project |
| Describe an ideal soil. |                        | • Class participation/Attendance  
• Quizzes and lecture exams  
• Final Exam  
• Lab reports (incl. field trips)  
• Project |
| Determine soil texture by both feel and analytical methods. |                        | • Class participation/Attendance  
• Quizzes and lecture exams  
• Final Exam  
• Lab reports (incl. field trips)  
• Project |
| Perform soil nutrient and pH tests and derive recommendations to correct imbalances |                        | • Class participation/Attendance  
• Quizzes and lecture exams  
• Final Exam  
• Lab reports (incl. field trips)  
• Project |
| Calculate rates of fertilizer and lime applications. |                        | • Class participation/Attendance  
• Quizzes and lecture exams  
• Final Exam  
• Lab reports (incl. field trips)  
• Project |
| Differentiate between primary, secondary, and trace elements. |                        | • Class participation/Attendance  
• Quizzes and lecture exams  
• Final Exam  
• Lab reports (incl. field trips)  
• Project |
<table>
<thead>
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<th>RCSJ Core Competencies</th>
<th>Evaluation / Assessment (Additional means of evaluation may be included by individual instructors)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Differentiate between bulk density and particle density.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Project • Class participation/Attendance • Quizzes and lecture exams • Final Exam • Lab reports (incl. field trips) • Project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Topical Outline

- Course orientation
  - A word about PAS
  - Lecture: Introduction to Soils – Function, medium, regulator, recycler, habitat
- Introduction to Soils – Profile, Topsoil & subsoil, interface
  - Lab: Soil Horizons
- Lecture: Parent Materials – Weathering, material transport
  - Lab: Soil Origin and Development
- Lecture: Physical Properties – Color, texture, textural classes
  - Lab: Soil texture and Structure
- Lecture: Physical Properties – Density, pore space, structure
  - Lab: Soil Density and Pore Space
- Lecture: Soil Water – Properties, capillarity, moisture, flow
  - Lab: Soil Moisture
- Lecture: Soil Water – Infiltration, percolation, evaporation, drainage
  - Lab: Infiltration
- Lecture: Soil Reaction – pH, acidity, alkalinity, liming
  - Lab: pH Testing
  - Mid-term Exam
- Lecture: Organic Matter – Carbon cycle, decomposition, humus, compost
  - Lab: Composting
- Lecture: Essential Plant Nutrients – Nitrogen, sulfur, legumes
  - Lab: Soil Sampling
- Lecture: Essential Plant Nutrients – Phosphorus, potassium, cations, Anions
  - Lab: Testing for Macronutrients
- Lecture: Nutrient Management – Goals, organic fertilizers, inorganic fertilizers
  - Lab: Testing for Micronutrients
- Lecture: Nutrient Management – Fertilizer/lime, plant analysis
  - Lab: Fertilizer Recommendations
- Lecture: Soil Organisms – Diversity, roots, beneficial organisms, detrimental organisms
  - Lab: Personal Soil Testing
- Final exam
Affirmative Action Statement
The Board of Trustees is committed to providing a work and academic environment that maintains and promotes affirmative action and equal opportunity for all employees and students without discrimination on the basis of certain enumerated and protected categories. These categories are race, creed (religion), color, national origin, nationality, ancestry, age, sex (including pregnancy and sexual harassment), marital status, domestic partnership or civil union status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, genetic information, liability for military service, or mental or physical disability, including AIDS and HIV related illnesses.

For questions concerning discrimination, contact Almarie J. Jones, Special Assistant to the President, Diversity and Equity/Title IX and Compliance, 856-415-2154 or ajones@rcsj.edu or (Cumberland) Nathaniel Alridge, Jr., JD, Director, Diversity and Equity/Title IX and Compliance, 856-691-8600, ext. 1414 or nalridge@rcsj.edu. For disability issues or any barriers in the learning or physical environment related to a document condition/disability please contact: Gloucester campus – Dennis M. Cook, Director, Department of Special Services, ADAAA/504 Officer at 856-415-2265 or dcook@rcsj.edu; or Cumberland Campus – Meredith Vicente, Senior Director, Physical & Learning Disabilities, Center for Academic & Student Success (CASS) at 856-691-6900 ext. 1282 or mvicent1@rcsj.edu

Department of Special Services
The Department of Special Services, located in the Enrollment and Student Services building, within the Testing Center, welcomes students of all abilities. The staff members in Special Services are committed to providing support services and ensuring equal access to eligible students with documented conditions/disabilities as outlined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act with Amendments Act (ADAAA). For more information, please visit our website-Department of Special Services or call 856-691-8600 x1445 or x1487.
Reporting Allegations of Sexual Assault Resource Referrals (8/2020)
Cumberland Campus

There are multiple safe places for students to report allegations of sexual assault, both on and off campus. Reports of sexual assault can be made to any of the following offices listed in the chart below.

All students are encouraged to report alleged crimes on campus. Employees must report crimes that pose an immediate threat to the campus to the Security Office, the local Police Department or the Sheriff’s Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Phone Number/Location/Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Confidential Reporting Law Enforcement</td>
<td>Vineland Police Dept.</td>
<td>856-691-4111</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Millville Police Department</td>
<td>856-825-7010</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cumberland Co. Sheriff’s Office</td>
<td>856-451-4449</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cumberland County Emergency Services</td>
<td>9-1-1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cumberland Campus Security</td>
<td>Andres Lopez, Director</td>
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<td>Safety and Security</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>856-691-8600, ext. 1777</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Confidential</td>
<td>Almarie J. Jones</td>
<td>856-415-2154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Campus Reporting Support</td>
<td>Special Assistant to the President</td>
<td>College Center, room116</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>Diversity and Equity, Title IX and</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ajones@rcsj.edu">ajones@rcsj.edu</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Compliance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nathaniel Alridge, Jr., JD, Director</td>
<td>856-200-4712</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Diversity and Equity, Title IX and</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nalridge@rcsj.edu">nalridge@rcsj.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Judicial Affairs</td>
<td>Academic Building, 2nd floor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kellie W. Slade</td>
<td>856-200-4615</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kslade@rcsj.edu">kslade@rcsj.edu</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Student Services, Student Life</td>
<td>Student Life Building (near</td>
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<td>gym)</td>
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<td>Confidential On-Campus Counseling and Support Services</td>
<td>Heather Bense, LCSW, ACS Director</td>
<td>856-200-4759</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Academic Building downstairs</td>
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<td>John Wojtowicz, LSW, VACW</td>
<td>856-200-4760</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mental Health Counselor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jwojtowicz@rcsj.edu">jwojtowicz@rcsj.edu</a></td>
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<td>Academic Building – 1st floor</td>
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<td>Student Counseling and</td>
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<td>Wellness Center</td>
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<td>Confidential Off-Campus Full-Service Support</td>
<td>Center for Family Services – Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV)</td>
<td>24/7 Hotlines Cumberland Co. – 1-800-225-0196</td>
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<td>24/7 Hotlines Camden &amp; Glo. Co. 1-866-295-7378 centerffs.org/serv</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner on Site</td>
<td>Inspira Medical Center Vineland</td>
<td>1505 W. Sherman Ave., Vineland, NJ 856-641-8000</td>
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