

Lesson	Topic:	Learning Plan Details	points
1	Course Overview Sustainable Philosophy Soil Physical Aspects	Course overview and “housekeeping”; introductions (if needed) Lecture: The whole soil course – an overview using a power point View: Demonstration/lecture: Physical properties, texture, aggregation	
	Reading & lecture	Thoughts on Soil - Essay Physical Properties – Essay & .pptx lecture	
	Discussion 1:	Introduce yourself using the Blackboard discussion forum. .	5
	Assignment 1.1:	Overview worksheet	10
	Assignment 1.2:	Write a 1 page reflection paper on Soil physical qualities	10

2	Soil Chemistry	Read: Soil Chemistry – Essays View: Lecture, .pptx, Soil Chemistry	
	discussion 2:	Explain a chemistry term - group work, use an analogy	5
	Assignment 2:	Soil chemistry worksheet	10

3	Soil Nutrients	View: power point – main points on nutrients Read: What is a nutrient? pages 17-22 “Essays” booklet Read: Nutrient Cycling of Anions in the Soil, pages 23-26 “Essays” booklet	
	Discussion3 : due 11/4 Sunday	Muddiest point	5
	Assignment 3: due 11/4 Sunday	Worksheet “Nutrients and their cycles”	10

4	Soil Sampling & testing	Read: How to access the USDA web-soil survey - Essay	
	Soil Health tests Soil Nutrient tests Interpreting tests	Read: How to submit a Soil Sample for Testing - Essay Read: What are Ideal soil test numbers pages - Essays View Demonstrations: soil health tests. Infiltration, respiration, compaction	
		Your thoughts on Soil testing	5
		Interpreting soil test results -worksheet	10

5	Organic Fertilizers, rates, conventional, applications	1) Organic Fertilizers – Essays & .pptx lecture 2) How much fertilizer should I apply? - Essays & work sheet	
	Discussion 5:	A fertilizer I would use is.....	5
	Assignment 5:	Fertilizer rate worksheet	10

6	Green Manures, cover crops, OMRI, Amendments,	Read: Organic Soil Amendments - Essay and the OMRI website paper Explore: the OMRI website (see the link in class materials in BB)	
	Discussion 6:	A new practice I might try	5
	Assignment 6:	Amendment worksheet	10

7	Review – concepts and topics from the first 6 weeks	We go over the book and assignments using a practice test.	
	Discussion 7 :	Ask Questions & review for the mid-term test	5
	Assignment 7: e-TEST:		40

8	Soil biology	Video: The Once Good Earth. Read about the Soil Food Web - Essay	
	Compost	Read: The Secret of Compost –Essay	
	Assignment 8a:	Soil biology worksheet	10
	Assignment 8b:	Soil compost quiz	10

9	Organic Certification	Review concepts to-date, review organic certification, and other materials found in your Blackboard class materials section including info on USDA – NRCS conservation programs	
	Building Sustainable Soil	Read “Ethical Predicament” and “Soil Comes Full Circle” Essays Video: watch the documentary: Searching for Sustainability	
	Discussion 9:	What soil conservation means to me	5
	Assignment 9:	Complete your final assignment – a soil plan for your farm base on Section 5 NOP plan	40

Graded activities	# of activities	Points per activity	Points possible	points	percent	grade
Discussions	8	5	40	210 - 185	➤ 88%	A
Assignments	9	10	90	184 - 160	➤ 76%	B
e-test	1	40	40	159– 130	➤ 62%	C
Farm soil plan final	1	40	40			
		total	210			



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