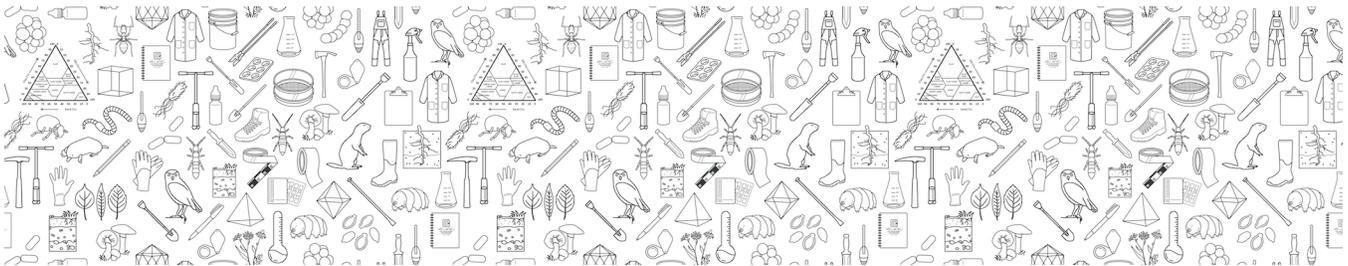


COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course encompasses soil genesis, morphology, and classification - otherwise known as pedology.

Pedology is a branch of soil science focusing on the formation, morphology, and classification of soils as bodies within the natural landscape. As pedologists, we seek to understand how the properties and distribution patterns of soils worldwide have developed along with broader landforms, biogeochemical environments, and habitats of living organisms.

We collectively acknowledge that the University of Wyoming occupies the ancestral and traditional lands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Crow, and Shoshone Indigenous peoples along with other Native tribes who call the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain region home. We recognize, support, and advocate alongside Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and with those forcibly removed from their Homelands.

**Student Learning Objectives**

1. Create a thorough and technically accurate descriptions of a soil in the field.
2. Explain the relationships and interactions between soils and plant communities.
3. Describe how soils form and the patterns in which they occur on the landscape.
4. Estimate soil chemical and physical properties from photographs and field observations.
5. Demonstrate a working knowledge of Soil Taxonomy.

Basic guidelines for getting the MOST out of each 'field' experience.

1. Click on the location map & site photos and become familiar with where in the world this site is. To gain more information, type the lat/long coordinates into [SoilWeb](#) to see what soil/soils are mapped at this location - remember - soil surveys were not developed to tell you exactly what soil you'll be on at this field scale - instead, it provides information about the dominant soils of the area. Use this information as guidance to what soils are around. Also - not all soils we'll visit this semester are mapped (e.g. USFS land in the Snowy Range).
2. Read the handout about this site if provided.
3. With a printed copy of the redacted description sheet in hand, watch the Site introductory (VIDEO 1). Use this information to better understand the landscape, land use, hillslope position, slope, parent material, etc. Be sure to note this information on your description sheet.
4. Next click through the site photos to see what the soil looks like up close. Use this image to practice noting horizonation and structure when possible.
5. Texture and color the soil samples labelled for this site and note this information on your description sheet.
6. Complete the description form and submit as a pdf via WyoCourses by Friday at 5 pm.
7. Then, watch the Site explanation (VIDEO 2) and see if we can help explain what you're seeing in these images and videos.