

Soil and Environmental Chemistry
SOCR 467
3 Credits (3-0-0)

Professor

Dr. Thomas Borch is the instructor for this class. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences and in the Department of Chemistry and can be reached by email Thomas.Borch@ColoState.Edu or by phone 970-491-6235. His office hours: open door policy.

Lecture Description SOCR467 (3 credits)

Our focus will be the chemistry of terrestrial environments and the interactions of soil constituents with bacteria, nutrients and pollutants.

The class will be taught in the spring semester for 3 credits with Monday, Wednesday and Friday lectures from 9:00 – 9:50 am in the Plant Science Building Room W1.

Learning Objectives SOCR467

- Students will learn fundamental principles of soil and environmental chemistry such as sorption/desorption, ion exchange, precipitation, dissolution, oxidation-reduction, polymerization, and hydrolysis.
- Students will learn synchrotron-based spectroscopic techniques used in molecular environmental chemistry.
- Students will learn to evaluate the environmental importance of specific interactions among soil constituents, nutrients and pollutants.
- Students will learn soil and environmental biogeochemical processes important for the development of soils and the fate of nutrients and pollutants.
- Students will learn to write and orally present a scientific report based on an environmental soil chemistry case study
- Students will learn state-of-the-art soil (bio)remediation theories and strategies

Policies

Note sheets are allowed for the final exam: Students can bring two pages (one-sided) typed or one page (two-sided) typed with notes for the final exam. Font size (minimum) 10 and 1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right).

Additional information: Cheating is unacceptable and will be reported.

Required Textbook

Title : Environmental Soil Chemistry (2nd Edition)

Author : Donald L. Sparks

Publisher : Academic Press

Edition/Year : 2002

ISBN : 0-12-656446-9
Additional information : none
Type : Required resource

Other Textbooks (on reserve)

Title : Soil and Water Chemistry: An Integrative Approach
Author : Michael E. Essington
Publisher : CRC Press
Edition/Year : 2004
ISBN : 0-8493-1258-2
Additional information : none
Type : Recommended resource

Title : Environmental Chemistry of Soils
Author : Murray B. McBride
Publisher : Oxford University Press, Inc.
Edition/Year : 1994
ISBN : 0-195-07011-9
Additional information : none
Type : Recommended resource

Title : Environmental Soil and Water Chemistry: Principles and Applications
Author : V.P. Evangelou
Publisher : Wiley Inter-Science
Edition/Year : 1998
ISBN : 0-471-16515-8
Additional information : none
Type : Recommended resource

Evaluation SOCR467

This class will meet jointly with SOCR567 for 3 hours of lecture per week. The lecture portion will be evaluated as detailed below. The four problem sets will consist of multiple questions that relate to the chemistry learnt in-class and will require many calculations/quantitative answers which will be evaluated by the instructor. The take home exam will be a group project that will apply the chemistry learnt in-class to solve a realistic environmental problem. This project will be evaluated based on a written report and an oral defense of the project. The final exam will include short answers and calculations.

Based on a percent scale where 100% is the highest obtainable grade the students will be evaluated as follows:

In-class participation (5%)

Four Problem sets (40%; 10% each)

Take-home exam (25%; written part 15% and oral part 10%)

Final exam (30%)

Prerequisite SOCR467

CHEM 331 (Quantitative Analysis) or similar course

Lecture Outline and Reading Assignments SOCR467

Lesson 1

Date : January 23, 2008

Objectives : Introduction to Environmental Soil Chemistry

Topics : History, Evolution, and Contaminants in Waters and Soils

Readings : Chapter 1 in Sparks

Lesson 2

Date : January 25, 2008

Objectives : Introduction to Molecular Environmental Soil Chemistry

Topics : Advanced Analytical Techniques such as Synchrotron Radiation Based Techniques

Readings : Chapter 1 in Sparks

Lesson 3

Date : January 28, 2008

Objectives : Review of Chemical Principles

Topics : Types of chemical bonding, Activity, Thermodynamic Properties

Readings : Chapter 1 in MB McBride

Lesson 4

Date : January 30, 2008

Objectives : Review of Chemical Principles

Topics : Equilibrium Constants, Solubility Products, Acidity/Basicity Constants, Complexations and Chelation Reactions

Readings : Chapter 1 in MB McBride

Lesson 5

Date : February 1, 2008

Objectives : Review of Chemical Principles

Topics : Electrochemistry, Kinetics,

Readings : Chapter 1 in MB McBride

Lesson 6

Date : February 4, 2008

Objectives : Learn About Important Inorganic Soil Components

Topics : Paulings Rule, Primary Soil Minerals

Readings : Sparks Chapter 2; pp 43-51

Lesson 7

Date : February 6, 2008

Objectives : Learn About Important Inorganic Soil Components

Topics : Secondary Soil Minerals, Clay Groups

Readings : Sparks Chapter 2 pp 51-59

Lesson 8

Date : February 8, 2008

Objectives : Learn About Important Inorganic Soil Components

Topics : Oxides, Hydroxides, Oxyhydroxides, Surface Area, CEC, XRD,

Readings : Sparks chapter 2 pp 59-73

Lesson 9

Date : February 11, 2008

Objectives : Learn about the chemistry of soil organic matter (SOM)

Topics : Carbon cycling, composition of SOM

Readings : Sparks chapter 3, pp 75 - 88

Lesson 10

Date : February 13, 2008

Objectives : Learn about SOM Chemistry

Topics : SOM fractionation, Structure, and Charge

Readings : Sparks chapter 3 pp 88 - 101

Lesson 11

Date : February 15, 2008

Objectives : Learn about SOM chemistry relevant to environmental processes

Topics : SOM-Metal interactions, SOM-Clay Complexes, and retention of pesticides by humic substances
Readings : Sparks chapter 3 pp 101-113

Lesson 12

Date : February 18, 2008

Objectives : Review HWA1 question 1-4

Topics : Important equations for environmental chemistry.

Readings : Sparks chapter 1 - 3 and McBride chapter 1

Lesson 13

Date : February 20, 2008

Objectives : Learn to calculate

Topics : Review HWA1 question 5-8

Readings : Sparks chapter 1-3 and McBride Ch. 1

Lesson 14

Date : February 22, 2008

Objectives : Review HWA1 Questions 9 to 12

Topics : Calculation of important soil/environmental chemical values

Readings : Sparks chapter 1-3 and McBride chapter 1.

Lesson 15

Date : February 25, 2008

Objectives : Learn about soil solution-solid phase equilibria

Topics : 1) Measurement and speciation of the soil solution. Review ion activity and activity coefficients (self-study)

Readings : Sparks chapter 4 p 115-126

Lesson 16

Date : February 27, 2008

Objectives : Learn about soil solution-solid phase equilibria

Topics : Dissolution and Solubility Processes

Readings : Sparks chapter 4 p 127-132

Lesson 17

Date : February 29, 2008

Objectives : Learn about sorption phenomena

Topics : Terminology, surface functional groups, surface complexes

Readings : Sparks chapter 5 p 133 - 144

Lesson 18

Date : March 3, 2008

Objectives : Learn about surface complexation, sorption isotherms and equilibrium-based adsorption models

Topics : Surface complexes; Freundlich and Langmuir equations

Readings : Sparks chapter 5 p 144 - 151

Lesson 19

Date : March 5, 2008

Objectives : Learn about Double-Layer Theory and Models

Topics : Gouy-Chapman Model, diffuse electric double-layer model/calculations,

Readings : Sparks chapter 5 p 151 -155

Lesson 20

Date : March 7, 2008

Objectives : Learn about Double-Layer Theory and Models

Topics : Gouy-Chapman Model

Readings : Sparks chapter 5 p 155-159

Lesson 21

Date : March 10, 2008

Objectives : Learn about the Stern Theory and sorption of metal cations and anions

Topics : Stern Theory, deficiencies of double-layer models, sorption of metal cations and of anions

Readings : Sparks chapter 5 p 159-163 (on p 163 only Fig. 5.16); p 172-176

Lesson 22

Date : March 12, 2008

Objectives : Learn about surface precipitation

Topics : surface precipitation, speciation of metal-contaminated soils

Readings : Sparks chapter 5 p 177-182

Lesson 23

Date : March 14, 2008

Objectives : Learn about points of zero charge and ion exchange processes

Topics : pzc, CEC, AEC

Readings : Sparks chapter 5 and 6 p 183 - 190

Lesson 24

Date : March 24, 2008

Objectives : To learn about Ion Exchange Processes

Topics : CEC constants, selectivity coefficients, thermodynamics of ion exchange

Readings : Sparks chapter 6 p 192 - 194

Lesson 25

Date : March 26, 2008

Objectives : Learn about thermodynamics of ion exchange and "experimental" interpretations

Topics : ΔG , H , and S for an ion exchange process and calculation of equilibrium exchange constants, selectivity coefficients, and exchanger phase activity coefficients.

Readings : Sparks chapter 6 p 195 -205

Lesson 26

Date : March 28, 2008

Objectives : Discuss the objectives of the different case studies in the Take-Home Exam.

Topics : Fate and transport of nutrients, contaminants, pharmaceuticals, and organic matter.

Readings : None

Assignments : Take-Home Exam

Lesson 27

Date : March 31, 2008

Objectives : Learn about kinetics of soil chemical processes

Topics : Rate limiting steps, time scales of chemical reactions, rate laws, reaction order, rate constants, kinetic models

Readings : Sparks chapter 7 p 207-215

Lesson 28

Date : April 2, 2008

Objectives : Learn about kinetic models and methodologies

Topics : Elovic equation, parabolic diffusion equation, fractional power, flow methods and relaxation techniques

Readings : Sparks chapter 7 p 215 -228

Lesson 29

Date : April 4, 2008

Objectives : Learn about Kinetics of important soil chemical processes

Topics : kinetics of sorption-desorption reactions, precipitation/dissolution reactions, organic contaminants, ion exchange

Readings : Sparks chapter 7 p 228 - 238

Lesson 30

Date : April 7, 2008

Objectives : Learn about kinetics of mineral dissolution and redox chemistry of soils

Topics : rate-limiting steps, surface-controlled dissolution, ligand-promoted dissolution, proton-promoted dissolution, oxidation-reduction reactions and potentials, Eh vs pH and pe vs pH diagrams

Readings : Sparks chapter 7 p 238 - 244 and Sparks chapter 8 p 245 - 253

Lesson 31

Date : April 9, 2008

Objectives : Learn about important redox processes

Topics : pe - pH diagrams, and impact of Fe (bio)reduction on the fate and transport of nutrients and

contaminants

Readings : Sparks chapter 8 p 251 -265

Lesson 32

Date : April 11, 2008

Objectives : Learn about Redox Chemistry of Soils

Topics : Measurement and use of redox potentials, and important redox reactions in soils

Readings : Sparks chapter 8 p 253 -265

Lesson 33

Date : April 14, 2008

Objectives : Learn about the chemistry of soil acidity

Topics : acid rain, mine spoil and acid sulfate soils, solution chemistry of aluminum, (non)exchangeable Al

Readings : Sparks Chapter 9 p 267 - 277

Lesson 34

Date : April 16, 2008

Objectives : Learn about soil acidity

Topics : titration analyses, liming soils

Readings : Sparks chapter 9 p 277 -283

Lesson 35

Date : April 18, 2008

Objectives : Learn about toxic metals and remediation strategies

Topics : U, Cr, As sources, toxicity, remediation

Readings : Suggested: VP Evangelou chapter 12, 13, and 14

Lesson 36

Date : April 21, 2008

Objectives : Learn about U and Cr bioremediation and the chemistry of saline and sodic soils

Topics : U and Cr Remediation of Superfund Sites, Soil Salinity

Readings : Sparks chapter 10 p 285 - 287. Suggested readings: Evangelou chapter 12, 13, and 14 and Essington chapter 11

Lesson 37

Date : April 23, 2008

Objectives : Learn about the chemistry of saline and sodic soils

Topics : irrigation water quality, sources of soluble salts, total dissolved solids (TDS), electrical conductivity (EC), parameters for measuring the sodic hazard (ESP and SAR).

Readings : Sparks chapter 10 p 287-299

Lesson 38

Date : April 25, 2008

Objectives : Learn about emerging contaminants

Topics : Sources, toxicity, and fate of steroid hormones

Readings : Kolpin, D.W., E.T. Furlong, M.T. Meyer, E.M. Thurman, S.D. Zaugg, L.B. Barber, and H.T.

Buxton. 2002. Pharmaceuticals, Hormones, and Other Organic Wastewater Contaminants in U.S.

Streams, 1999-2000: A National Reconnaissance. Environ. Sci. Technol. 36:1202-1211. I have uploaded a PDF version of this paper.

Lesson 39

Date : April 28, 2008

Objectives : Learn about emerging contaminants

Topics : Sources, Toxicity and Environmental Fate

Readings : Kolpin, D.W., E.T. Furlong, M.T. Meyer, E.M. Thurman, S.D. Zaugg, L.B. Barber, and H.T.

Buxton. 2002. Pharmaceuticals, Hormones, and Other Organic Wastewater Contaminants in U.S.

Streams, 1999-2000: A National Reconnaissance. Environ. Sci. Technol. 36:1202-1211. I have uploaded a PDF version of this paper.

Lesson 40

Date : April 30, 2008

Topics : Student Presentations

Lesson 41

Date : May 2, 2008

Topics : Student Presentations

Lesson 42

Date : May 5, 2008

Topics : Student Presentations

Lesson 43

Date : May 7, 2008

Objectives : Review of chapter 1-5 in Sparks

Readings : Sparks chapter 1 to 5 (p. 1-186)

Lesson 44 (Last Lesson)

Date : May 9, 2008

Objectives : Review of chapter 6-10 in Sparks

Readings : Sparks chapter 6 to 10 (p. 187-300)