Course Syllabus
Soil Ecology
EEES 4250/5250, Spring, 2008, 3 credit hours

Instructor:
Dr. Michael N. Weintraub
Bowman-Oddy 3003-B
419-530-2585 (office)

Office Hours:
By appointment, but feel free to stop by office anytime I’m there.

Scheduled Class Time and Room:
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45am, Bowman-Oddy 1053

Course Objective: Soil biological processes are fundamental to life on land. My
objective is to introduce basic ecological concepts about soil biodiversity, decomposition,
nutrient cycling, and plant-soil interactions to upper level undergraduate and graduate
students so that they can apply this information to their appropriate fields of study.

Required Text: Richard Bardgett, The Biology of Soil: A Community and Ecosystem

Web site for additional course materials:
http://www.eeescience.utoledo.edu/Faculty/Weintraub/Courses/

Grading: Course grades will be based on a series of take home assignments/tests (50%),
a final research paper (25%) and presentation (15%), and class participation (10%). Late
homework will not be accepted, as we will be discussing the answers once the
assignments are turned in.

Late homework will be accepted up to 2 days after due date, but will be docked 10% /
day (you can submit electronically). 2 days is the limit, as answers are going to be
revealed in subsequent classes.

If you’re going to miss some class time, BE PROACTIVE about getting your
assignments in –make arrangements for turning in your work in advance.

Course expectations: Ask questions when you encounter something unfamiliar –
chances are someone else has the same question

Participate in discussions – this will count toward your grade

Keep up with the reading so that you’re prepared for class
Topical Outline (topics correspond to chapters in the text):

1) The soil environment
2) The diversity of life in soil
3) Organism interactions and soil processes
4) Linkages between plant and soil biological communities
5) Above-ground trophic interactions and soil biological communities
6) Soil biological properties and global change

The lectures will generally follow the text, and we spend roughly 2 weeks on each topic

Plagiarism:

- I expect you to properly cite ALL of your sources, including web sites and “common knowledge.”

- Pasting text from ANY source, web or otherwise, into your work is not permitted – if you want to use text from another source, you must paraphrase it and cite it properly. Direct quotes from other sources are not permitted.

- When in doubt, cite it.
  - First offense will result in a zero on the assignment
  - Second offense will be reported to the university

Other Policies
No cell phone, iPOD use, etc – turn them completely off