

# ENVS220C : Introduction to Soil Science

Introduces students to the study, management, and conservation of soils as natural bodies, both as a media for plant growth and as a part of a larger ecosystem. Students will learn to identify soil types in natural and disturbed communities. This course will present the concept of soil science such as composition, chemical, physical and biological properties, classification and mapping, soil water, soil conservation, management practices, and soil fertility and productivity. The world's soils are being greatly impacted by environmental impacts such as climate change, water pollution, deforestation, and development. The quality of the soil determines the capacity of land to support natural ecosystems and human society. This course will provide an introduction to the soil types found in northern New England and how those soil types will determine our capacity to grow food.

**Credits** 4

**Lab/Practicum/Clinical Hours** 2

**Lecture Hours** 3

## **Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate proper laboratory techniques and skills.
2. Describe the classification system of soils.
3. Explain the fundamental physical, chemical, and biological properties of soils and their effects on plant growth and the environment.
4. Discuss the principles of soil conservation and soil development processes.