

**Environmental Soil Chemistry**  
**SOCR 567**  
**4 Credits (3-0-1)**

**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](mailto:Thomas.Borch@ColoState.Edu) or by phone 970-491-6235. His office hours: open door policy.

**Lecture Description SOCR567 (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.

**Recitation Description SOCR567 (1 credit)**

In addition to the lectures students will critically review (1-2 pages written reviews are required from all of the students each week) and discuss scientific peer-reviewed journal articles that are relevant to the lecture section of this course. In addition, specific questions need to be answered for each of the article reviewed. Each week one student will in addition to the written review also present (using PowerPoint) the paper for the class - this presentation will then be followed by questions and discussion concerning the presented paper. The recitation will be taught in the spring semester for 1 credit with a Friday recitation from 8:00 – 8:50 am in the Plant Science Building Room W1.

**Learning Objectives SOCR567**

- 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
- Students will learn to read and critically evaluate peer-reviewed literature on topics related to Environmental Soil Chemistry.

- Students will learn to write and orally present an advanced scientific report based on an environmental chemistry case study
- Students will learn to solve advanced environmental soil chemistry problem sets

### **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 SOCR567**

This class will meet jointly with SOCR467 for 3 hours of lecture per week. However, the recitation section will be separate from the undergraduate class. In addition, the graduate students will be graded separately from the undergraduate students on all assignments and the home work sets, take-home exam as well as the final exam will require more integrative and in-depth understanding of the lecture material and some additional questions.

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 advanced 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. Students will review 10 journal articles during the recitation sections and learn about how to review and write a scientific article. The graduate students will meet with the professor in a separate recitation time for further discussion of lecture topics and student presentation of the readings. The papers to be reviewed are directly related to the topics (book chapters) that will be covered during the lectures. The papers to be reviewed will be selected to provide the students with current state-of-knowledge of the topics from the lecture sections. Graduate students will be expected to contribute to the discussion of the journal articles in recitation and to write a 1-2 page (single spaced) review of each article. The reviews will summarize the main points of the paper and critique the authors' arguments'.

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 (20%)

Recitation (10%; 1% per journal article review)

### **Prerequisite SOCR567**

None

### **Lecture Outline and Reading Assignments SOCR567**

#### **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 :  $\Delta G$ ,  $H$ , 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)

### **Recitation Outline SOCR567**

#### **Recitation 1**

Date : January 25, 2008  
Objectives : Learn how to read a scientific peer-reviewed journal article  
Readings: None

#### **Recitation 2**

Date : February 1, 2008  
Objectives : Learn how to review/evaluate a scientific peer-reviewed journal article  
Readings: None

#### **Recitation 3**

Date : February 8, 2008  
Objectives : Learn how to review/evaluate a scientific peer-reviewed journal article  
Readings: To be announced

#### **Recitation 4**

Date : February 15, 2008  
Objectives : Review and presentation of journal article  
Readings: To be announced (see examples below)

#### **Recitation 5**

Date : February 22, 2008  
Objectives : Review and presentation of journal article  
Readings: To be announced

#### **Recitation 6**

Date : February 29, 2008  
Objectives : Review and presentation of journal article  
Readings: To be announced

#### **Recitation 7**

Date : March 7, 2008  
Objectives : Review and presentation of journal article  
Readings: To be announced

#### **Recitation 8**

Date : March 14, 2008  
Objectives : Review and presentation of journal article  
Readings: To be announced

#### **Recitation 9**

Date : March 28, 2008  
Objectives : Review and presentation of journal article  
Readings: To be announced

#### **Recitation 10**

Date : April 4, 2008  
Objectives : Review and presentation of journal article  
Readings: To be announced

#### **Recitation 11**

Date : April 11, 2008  
Objectives : Review and presentation of journal article  
Readings: To be announced

#### **Recitation 12**

Date : April 18, 2008  
Objectives : Review and presentation of journal article  
Readings: To be announced



**Recitation 13**

Date : April 25, 2008

Objectives : Review and presentation of journal article

Readings: To be announced

**Recitation 14**

Date : May 2, 2008

Objectives : Learn how to write a scientific paper

Readings: To be announced

**Lesson 15 (Last Recitation)**

Date : May 9, 2008

Objectives : Learn how to write a scientific paper

Readings: None

**Examples of papers to be reviewed in the recitations:**

Schwarzenbach, R. P.; Escher, B. I.; Fenner, K.; Hofstetter, T. B.; Johnson, C. A.; von Gunten, U.; Wehri, B. The Challenge of Micropollutants in Aquatic Systems. *Science* **2006**, *313*, 1072-1077.

Myneni, S. C. n. B.; Brown, J. T.; Martinez, G. A.; Meyer-Ilse, W. Imaging of Humic Substance Macromolecular Structures in Water and Soils. *Science* **1999**, *286*, 1335-1337.

Stumm, W.; Sulzberger, B. The cycling of iron in natural environments: Considerations based on laboratory studies of heterogeneous redox processes. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* **1992**, *56*, 3233-3257.

Weng, L. P.; Koopal, L. K.; Hiemstra, T.; Meeussen, J. C. L.; Van Riemsdijk, W. H. Interactions of calcium and fulvic acid at the goethite-water interface. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* **2005**, *69*, 325-339.

Fendorf, S. E. Surface-Reactions of Chromium in Soils and Waters. *Geoderma* **1995**, *67*, 55-71.

Geelhoed, J. S.; Hiemstra, T.; VanRiemsdijk, W. H. Phosphate and sulfate adsorption on goethite: Single anion and competitive adsorption. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* **1997**, *61*, 2389-2396.

Peretyazhko, T.; Sposito, G. Iron(III) reduction and phosphorous solubilization in humid tropical forest soils. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* **2005**, *69*, 3643-3652.

Davidson, E. A.; Chorover, J.; Dail, D. B. A mechanism of abiotic immobilization of nitrate in forest ecosystems: the ferrous wheel hypothesis. *Global Change Biology* **2003**, *9*, 228-236.

Borch, T.; Inskeep, W. P.; Harwood, J. A.; Gerlach, R. Impact of ferrihydrite and anthraquinone-2,6-disulfonate on the reductive transformation of 2,4,6-trinitrotoluene by a gram-positive fermenting bacterium. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2005**, *39*, 7126-7133.

Lovley, D. R.; Stolz, J. F.; Nord, G. L.; Phillips, E. J. P. Anaerobic production of magnetite by a dissimilatory iron-reducing microorganism. *Nature* **1987**, *330*, 252-254.

**Summary Explanation**

	<b>SOCR467</b>	<b>SOCR567</b>
<b>Lectures</b>	Same as SOCR567	Same as SOCR467
<b>Readings</b>	Different from SOCR567	Different from SOCR467 (students will read additional sections of the required book)
<b>Problem Sets</b>	Different from SOCR567	Different from SOCR467 (students will solve more integrative and in-depth problems sets)
<b>Take-home exam</b>	Different from SOCR567	Different from SOCR467 (a more in-depth analysis of the case-studies will be required)
<b>Final exam</b>	Different from SOCR567	Different from SOCR467 (students will solve more integrative and in-depth problems sets)
<b>Recitation</b>	Not a part of SOCR467	The recitation section is exclusively for SOCR567 students and will continue to discuss the principles presented in the lecture material and integrate this with the current research papers being reviewed by the graduate students

Soil chemistry involves the chemical reactions and processes between these | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. Environmental Chemistry. involves the chemical. interactions between.