

**To:** Dr. Burch Oglesby, Chair, Curriculum Committee  
**From:** Jose Barbosa, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences  
**Re:** Request to Change the number of credit hours for ESC4680 / BIOL 4680, Introduction to Soil Resources

**Proposal to Curriculum Committee  
ESC4680 / BIOL 4680**

**Request to Alter the Number of Credit from 3 to 4 credit hours**

**1. Catalog Description**

**ESC4680 / BIOL 4680 Introduction to Soil Resources**

(Current number of credits “3” hours. **Request to change to “4” hours**)

**1.a. Current catalog description:**

Introduction to the study of soils and exploration of fundamentals principles of origin, nature and constitution of soils. The geological origin of soils and factors of soil formation. Study of soil’s physical, chemical and biological properties in determining the suitability of land for various uses. The environmental impact of agricultural and non-agricultural soil and land use. Soil erosion and conservation. The conquest of land through 7000 years and the impact human actions. *Spring semester. Lecture 2 hours, Laboratory 2 hours. Prerequisites: Environmental sciences ESC151 with a minimum grade of C, or instructor approval. Laboratory/studio course fee will be assessed.*

**1.b Proposed catalog description:**

Introduction to the study of soils and exploration of fundamentals principles of origin, nature and constitution of soils. The geological origin of soils and factors of soil formation. Study of soil’s physical, chemical and biological properties in determining the suitability of land for various uses. The environmental impact of agricultural and non-agricultural soil and land use. Soil erosion and conservation. The conquest of land through 7000 years and the impact human actions. *Spring semester. Lecture 3 hours, Laboratory 3 hours. Prerequisites: Environmental sciences ESC151 with a minimum grade of C, or instructor approval. Laboratory/studio course fee will be assessed.*

**2. Request/Recommendation**

-Request to change the number of credits for the course (ESC4680 / BIOL 4680 Introduction to Soil Resources) from 3 hours to 4 hours).

-Change the catalog description

**3. Rationale**

In the last curriculum proposal (#13-070, 2012-2013), Introduction to Soil Resources was cross-listed between Environmental Sciences and Biology (ESC / BIOL) and it was converted from a 2000 to 4000 level course. In addition, the numbers of weekly contact hours were increased for

both lecture and labs. However, the number of credit hours assigned to the course were not changed. Students that enrolled in this course (Spring 2014) *de facto* worked for a 4 credit hours but only earned 3 credits. This request will allow students to earn the number of credits that correspond to the amount work, number of weekly contact hours and required efforts to successfully finish the course.

#### **4. Consequences to Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences**

There will be no strenuous consequences to the department since the proposed change will not require additional resources other than what the current course would require. The proposed change may increase the enrollment in the discipline and create condition for an increased use of UTC rustic VAAP property.

Readjustment in the number of credits to 4, will only give students the number of credit hours that should have been assigned to the course.

#### **5. Studio and laboratory fee rationale**

Department vehicles will be used for the 5-6 scheduled fieldtrips mainly to the VAAP property and possibly to other areas contiguous to the Hamilton County. The lab fee will contribute to offsetting the cost of the department vans.

#### **6. Impact on Other Departments:**

Changing the course classification and improving the curriculum may attract environmental engineering students to enroll in the course. There will be no other impact on any department due to this request.