**Beneficial Reuse of Sediment: The Mud to Parks Field Experience**



**Instructor information:**

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**Meeting Times:**

This course will meet Saturdays from 10 until 12:30, Sept. 7 through Oct. 12. An additional class period may be arranged to compensate for the two Saturdays when class cannot be held. Class will be in the Warner Conference Room at the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (West end of Hazelwood Dr.). There are tentatively four planned field trips. Students must be aware that some field trips will depart in the early Saturday morning and return in the evening. Dates of trips will be selected to maximize educational opportunities. A weekday event may be planned as an extra credit option, especially if equipment will be in use.

**Course Description:**

This one credit hour class will cover beneficial use of sediment eroded into lakes and rivers, with emphasis on use as topsoil. Students will visit restoration sites and dredging projects and observe the operation of dredging and construction equipment if it is operating during visits. The projects generally provide topsoil to distressed areas such as strip mines and old industrial sites. Removing sediment from water bodies in turn restores depth to aquatic habitat.

Anticipated field trip sites include East Port Marina and the US Army Corps of Engineers’ artificial island in Lower Peoria Lake, the old US Steel South Works site on Lake Michigan, the Rice Lake and Banner Marsh State Conservation areas, and the Fox Waterway Agency’s dredging and sediment processing operations. Some of the trips will take the entire day. The projects are mainly funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Mud to Parks program (see <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/m2p/Pages/default.aspx> and http://www.istc.illinois.edu/special\_projects/il\_river/IL-steward.pdf ).

**Learning Objectives:**

Students will have the opportunity to develop a general understanding of basic sedimentation, soil use issues, inland dredging methods, and logistic and economic considerations for using sediment as reclaimed soil. They will observe equipment, such as river towboats, barges, hydraulic dredges, excavators, cranes, displacement pumps, and various other equipment types. Sediment dewatering ponds and drying beds will also be visited. Reclaimed topsoil dredged as early as 2000 and during the current year will be observed along with the associated vegetation.

**Text/Required Readings:**

There is no assigned textbook for this course. Readings will be made available to students, and they are expected to have read all materials and be prepared to discuss them in class.

**Enrollment:** The course is limited to 6 students. The instructor’s permission is required.

**Assessment:**

This course will be graded A—100-90%, B—89-80%, C—79-70%, D—69-60%, F <60%. Students will earn points in the course through:

Participation (50%), which includes active engagement in class discussions and during field trips; performance on quizzes (25%); and a field trip journal **or** 5 to 10 page paper discussing beneficial use, the field trips, and other relevant matters (25%).

**Disabilities:**

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-460, or e-mail a message to disability@illinois.edu. The DRES Web address is <http://www.disability.illinois.edu>.



