



Certified Hydric Soils Investigator – Syllabus



Duration: 12 Weeks

Credit Hours: 36 Hours

General Information

The Swamp School's online Certified Wetland Hydric Soils Investigator (CHSI) course is a unique blend of online learning paired with hands-on practice at a local site of your choice. The class is presented in a weekly format and runs for 12 consecutive weeks. The classroom portion is offered entirely online as a virtual classroom experience. There is no need to travel to our location.

This course is part of the Certified Wetland Delineator Series. The series includes this course as well as the Certified Wetland Hydrologist (CWH), Certified Wetland Botanist (CWB), and Certified Wetland Delineator (CWD) Courses.

“This certification program is designed to familiarize you with and then demonstrate and test your knowledge of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) Hydric Soils Indicators.”

Course Description

Each week we will discuss the specific USACOE hydric soils indicators for the different regions of the US. These include information from the Alaska, Arid West, Atlantic & Gulf Coast, Caribbean Islands Region, Eastern Mountains and Piedmont, Great Plains, Hawaii and Pacific Islands, Mid-West, Northcentral and Northeast and the Western Mountains supplements. The course is designed to allow you to demonstrate your knowledge of each region and its indicators through the use of assignments, discussions, quizzes, and tests.

Some of the many topics we will discuss include:

- Review of soil taxonomy
- A, S, and F indicators types
- Carbon, sulfur and iron indicators
- The importance of oxidized rhizospheres
- Floodplain soil indicators
- How to identify hydric red parent material soils
- Regional problem soils

Course Requirements

Students are expected to present original work for all weekly assignments, respond to weekly discussions and provide responses to other students' discussions on or before the due date of the assignment.

Weekly class assignments include the preparation of a submission that may include an essay, pictures, maps, or other course-related material. Occasional quizzes are included in the program as well as completion of a midterm and final exam.

Instructor Contact - Directly within the class via Moodle e-mail

Time Limits

Weekly assignments are to be turned in within the timeframe indicated for each assignment, normally ten days from the start of the lesson. Daily assignments in weeklong courses are due the next day. You must complete all class requirements by the official end date of the course. If you are unable to complete the class within that time frame you MUST notify the Swamp School in writing. Late work may be turned in after due dates but may be penalized. If you have not completed the course by the official end date, additional time extensions can be requested but may be subject to an additional fee. If you wish, you may transfer into the next scheduled session of the course, however, some or all of your previous coursework may not carry over to the new session and you may also be subject to a re-enrollment fee. The Swamp School reserves the right to modify this policy on a case-by-case basis.

NOTE: In the event that the student falls more than two weeks behind during the class term, the student's course access will be suspended without notice until the student contacts the Swamp School to discuss continuation in the class or transfer to another session. It is up to the student to contact the Swamp School to discuss re-enrollment options.

Plagiarism and Writing Standards

The Swamp School's expectation is that all student work will be original. A detailed description of our policy on proper submission of an assignment is outlined in our Plagiarism Statement and Writing Standards.

Grading*

Weekly Assignments - 40%

Weekly Class Discussions - 20%

Mid-Term - 20%

Final Exam - 20%

*A minimum overall grade of 80% is required to pass this class.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic
Week 1	Soil Taxonomy
Week 2	Alaska – Hydric Soil Indicators
Week 3	Arid West – Hydric Soil Indicator – Groups “A”, “S”, “F” Indicators
Week 4	Atlantic & Gulf Coast – Groups “A”, “S”, “F” Indicators
Week 5	Caribbean Island – Groups “A”, “S”, “F” Indicators
Week 6	Eastern Mountains & Piedmont – Groups “A”, “S”, “F” Indicators
Week 7	Mid-Term
Week 8	Great Plains – Groups “A”, “S”, “F” Indicators
Week 9	Hawaii and Pacific Islands – Groups “A”, “S”, “F” Indicators
Week 10	Mid-West – Groups “A”, “S”, “F” Indicators
Week 11	Northcentral and Northeast – Groups “A”, “S”, “F” Indicators
Week 12	Western Mountains, Valleys and Coast Region – Groups “A”, “S”, “F” Indicators Final Exam

Certification

Upon successful completion of the course, students will receive a certificate with an electronic seal of authenticity. This certification will remain valid for 5 years and is eligible for renewal with additional continuing education. The Certified Hydric Soils Investigator (CHSI) is part of the Swamp School's Certified Wetland Delineator Program (CWD).