SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS
New Course Request

Use this form to request a new common or unique course. Consult the system course database through for information about existing courses before submitting this form.

CNBS

BHSU	School of Natural Sciences 6S College of Behavioral, Natural Sciences
Institution	**Division/Department**

Pamela Canivean — 4/16/26

Institutional Approval Signature — **Date**

Section 1. Course Title and Description

If the course contains a lecture and laboratory component, identify both the lecture and laboratory numbers (xxx and xxxL) and credit hours associated with each. Provide the complete description as you wish it to appear in the system course database, including pre-requisites, co-requisites, and registration restrictions.

Prefix & No.	Course Title	Credits
BIOL 330	Soil Biogeochemistry:	3
BIOL 330L	Soil Biogeochemistry Lab:	1

NOTE: The Enrollment Services Center assigns the short, abbreviated course title that appears on transcripts. The short title is limited to 30 characters (including spaces); meaningful but concise titles are encouraged due to space limitations in the student information system.

Course Description

Soil Biogeochemistry:
Foundational course will cover soil formation, variability, taxonomy, and management in the context of forest and grassland environments. The focus will be on integrating biological and chemical processes to understand biogeochemical cycling, nutrient bioavailability, and the impact on soil fertility, nutrient cycling, microbial communities, and plant-soil interactions.
Soil Biogeochemistry Lab:
Laboratory exercises include field and laboratory techniques for characterizing soil physical, chemical, and biological properties, including microbial biomass characterization, with an emphasis on site comparisons across different land management techniques. The students will be collecting samples at a field site, analyzing the soil and soil biota and generating a report.

NOTE: Course descriptions are short, concise summaries that typically do not exceed 75 words. DO: Address the content of the course and write descriptions using active verbs (e.g., explore, learn, develop, etc.). DO NOT: Repeat the title of the course, layout the syllabus, use pronouns such as "we" and "you," or rely on specialized jargon, vague phrases, or clichés.

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites (add lines as needed)

Prefix & No.	Course Title	Pre-Req/Co-Req?
BIOL 153	General Biology II	Pre-Req
BIOL 153L	General Biology II Lab	Pre-Req

Registration Restrictions

none

Section 2. Review of Course

2.1. Will this be a unique or common course (*place an "X" in the appropriate box*)?

[X] **Unique Course**

If the request is for a unique course, institutions must review the common course catalog in the system course database to determine if a comparable common course already exists. List

the two closest course matches in the common course catalog and provide a brief narrative explaining why the proposed course differs from those listed. If a search of the common course catalog determines an existing common course exists, complete the Authority to Offer an Existing Course Form. Courses requested without an attempt to find comparable courses will not be reviewed.

Prefix & No.	Course Title	Credits
PS 213/L	Soils/ Lab	2/1
PS 412/L	Environmental Soil Chemistry/Lab	3/1
PS 421/L	Soil Microbiology	3/1

Provide explanation of differences between proposed course and existing system catalog courses:
This course will be a 3-credit lecture with a 1-credit laboratory course. It is intended to be an intermediate course that provides the content required to support the skills necessary for jobs that BHSU's Forest & Grasslands Specialization is preparing students for. The proposed course is intended to cover a combination of the fundamentals of soils in addition to more advanced principles related to soil chemistry/biochemistry, and soil plant and microbial biomass interactions as it relates to biogeochemical cycling and managements in forest and grassland ecosystems. The proposed laboratory course will require students to spend time in forest and grassland ecosystems to observe, collect and analyze samples.
The PS courses offered by SDSU teach in depth similar content across 3 courses, but are focused on agricultural lands and productivity which has its own, unique concerns and requires different management strategies.

☐ **Common Course**
☐ BHSU ☐ DSU ☐ NSU ☐ SDSMT ☐ SDSU ☐ USD

Section 3. Other Course Information

3.1. Are there instructional staffing impacts?
☐ No.
Replacement of ____ (prefix, number, course name, credits)
Effective Date of Deletion:
☒ No. Schedule Management.
Explanation:
☐ Yes.
Explanation:

3.2. Existing program(s) in which course will be offered (i.e., any current or pending majors, minors, certificates, etc.): BS Biology, BS Environmental Science

3.3. Proposed instructional method by university ***(as defined by AAC Guideline 2.4.3.A):*** ✱
Please provide a brief description of how the course is appropriate for the instructional method, as defined in AAC Guidelines. 330: R 330L: L

3.4. Proposed delivery method by university ***(as defined by AAC Guideline 2.4.3.B and 2.4.3.B(A-1)):***
~~X01, X02, X15~~, B07, B02, B15

3.5. Term change will be effective: Fall 26

3.6. Can students repeat the course for additional credit? No

3.7. Will grade for this course be limited to S/U (pass/fail)? No

3.8. Will section enrollment be capped? Yes, 24 (unless we have multiple lab sections)

3.9. Will this course equate (i.e., be considered the same course for degree completion) with any other unique or common courses in the common course system database? No
If yes, indicate the course(s) to which the course will equate (add lines as needed):

Prefix & No.	Course Title

3.10. Is this prefix approved for your university? Yes
If no, provide a brief justification:

Section 4. Department and Course Codes (Completed by University Academic Affairs)

4.1. University Department: School of Natural Sciences
4.2. Banner Department Code: BSNS
4.3. Proposed CIP Code: 261305
Is this a new CIP code for the university? (Yes or No)

NEW COURSE REQUEST
Supporting Justification for On-Campus Review

Daniel Asunskis		3-25-26
Request Originator	**Signature**	**Date**
Daniel Asunskis		3-25-26
Department Chair	**Signature**	**Date**
Cynthia Anderson		3/24/2026
School/College Dean	**Signature**	**Date**

1. **Provide specific reasons for the proposal of this course and explain how the changes enhance the curriculum.**
   We are splitting the existing Plant Ecophysiology and Soils course into two separate 300+ level courses for the students. This course is specifically titles to make the students qualified for internships and positions through several agencies.
2. **Note whether this course is:**
   [X] Required [ ] Elective
3. **In addition to the major/program in which this course is offered, what other majors/programs will be affected by this course?**
   none
4. **If this will be a dual listed course, indicate how the distinction between the two levels will be made.**
   n/a
5. **Desired section size**
   24
6. **Provide qualifications of faculty who will teach this course. List name(s), rank(s), and degree(s).**
   Kathleen Madsen, Assistant Professor of Biology, PhD
7. **Note whether adequate facilities are available and list any special equipment needed for the course.**
   none
8. **Note whether adequate library and media support are available for the course.**
   n/a
9. **Will the new course duplicate courses currently being offered on this campus?** No
   If yes, provide justification.

10. **If this course may be offered for variable credit, explain how the amount of credit at each offering is to be determined.**
    n/a
11. **Add any additional comments that will aid in the evaluation of this request.**

    Our students need additional 300+ level electives as many faculty have begun retiring. We have lost the ability to teach some of our upper-level catalog. We are shifting to create new opportunities for the students that match expertise of the faculty.