Purpose & Objectives
CEE 4300 is a 4 credit semester long course in Soil Mechanics. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the fundamental principles of soil mechanics in a manner that will prepare them for the practice of Geotechnical engineering and/or for further study at the graduate level. The specific topics in CEE 4300 include soil properties, seepage, soil stresses, consolidation and settlement analysis, shear strength, lateral pressures and retaining walls, slope stability, bearing capacity and foundations, and improvement of soil properties. This should be an enjoyable course!

Text and Required Reading
The required text for this course: Fundamentals of Geotechnical Analysis by Dunn, Anderson and Kiefer (1980). This book is out of print. However, re-prints are available at the University Bookstore. This is arguably the best undergrad text written to date!

Homework
There is a homework assignment for nearly every class period and it will be due at the beginning of the class period following the period in which it was assigned.

Lab Report:
Homework problems must be done in accordance with the Department Homework Format that is attached. Homework must have a professional appearance and be neat or it will not be graded. Late homework will not be accepted. Your homework score will be equivalent to one midterm exam. DO THE HWs!!

You are encouraged to work together in doing your homework assignments. This instructor believes that students can benefit greatly from each other. Please use spreadsheets (or other) software where appropriate for HW and Lab assignments including graphs.

Laboratories
Dr. Jim Bay (jim.bay@usu.edu) will be the faculty member responsible for the laboratory exercises. Please address any lab concerns to Dr Bay directly. There will be 8 - 9 labs during the semester. The labs have been integrated with the lectures at the times shown on the schedule. Some lecture periods will be used to introduce the lab material. You are to attend the laboratory sessions at the time for which you sign up. The laboratory work sheets and assigned questions must be completed by each student for each lab. All labs must be attended and all lab write ups must be completed in order to receive a grade for the class.
Exams
Tentatively, there will be 3 midterm exams worth 100 points each and one final exam worth 150-200 points. The final exam will be comprehensive. All exams will be closed book; however, during each midterm you will be allowed one 5"x 8" "crib" card for formulas etc; keep these for the final! Tables and figures from the text that may be required to work the exam problems will be provided with the exam. Copies of past exams will be made available via the course web site and/or in class handouts. Cheating on exams will not be tolerated and will be grounds for receiving an F in the course.

Handouts
I like to provide you with handouts for most lectures (no surprise). I highly recommend that you get a 1.5 to 2.0 inch 3 – ring notebook and maintain all handouts, exams, computer output, etc in chronological order in the notebook.

Grades
Grades for the course will be based on exams, homework and labs. The points from the exams, homework and labs will tentatively be weighted as follows:

Mid term exams 100 pts each
Final Exam 150 - 200 pts
Homework 100 pts
Labs 25 pts

Course Schedule
A copy of the course schedule is attached. Changes to the schedule will be announced in class. Note the dates of the examinations and please do not ask for special treatment regarding these dates.