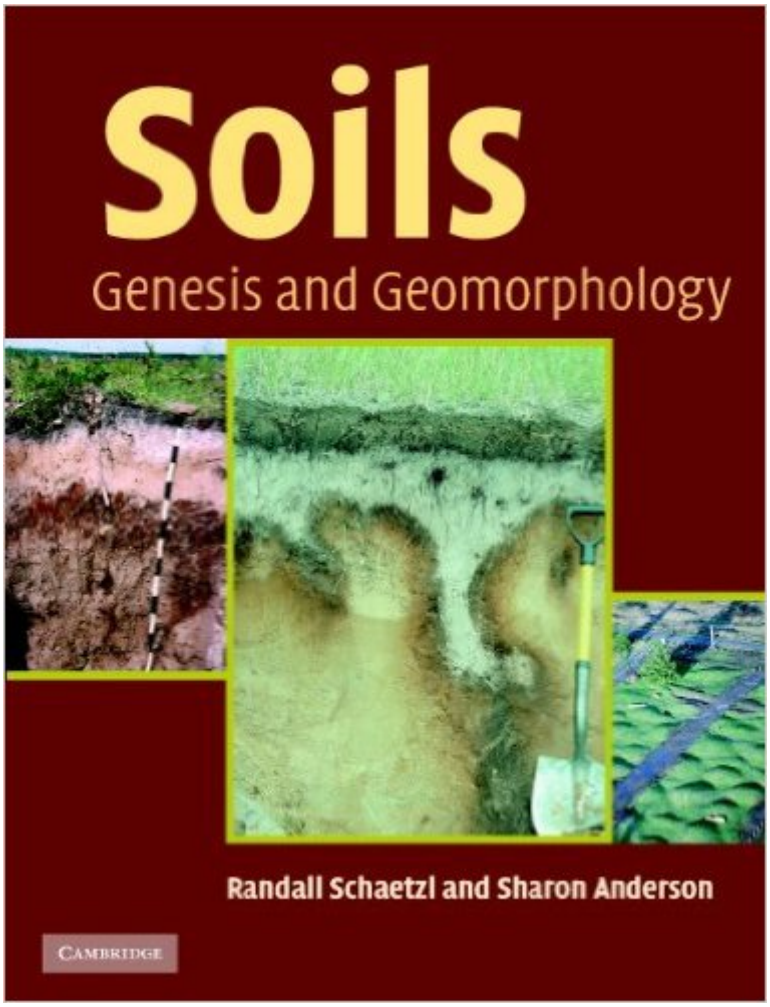
Soils: Genesis And Geomorphology



Synopsis

Soils: Genesis and Geomorphology is a comprehensive and accessible textbook on all aspects of soils. The book's introductory chapters on soil morphology, physics, mineralogy and organisms prepare the reader for the more advanced and thorough treatment that follows. Theory and processes of soil genesis and geomorphology form the backbone of the book, rather than the emphasis on soil classification that permeates other less imaginative soils textbooks. This refreshingly readable text takes a truly global perspective, with many examples from around the world sprinkled throughout. Replete with hundreds of high quality figures and a large glossary, this book will be invaluable for anyone studying soils, landforms and landscape change. Soils: Genesis and Geomorphology is an ideal textbook for mid- to upper-level undergraduate and graduate level courses in soils, pedology and geomorphology. It will also be an invaluable reference text for researchers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I take it you found this because you're taking a Geology course?Me too. I don't know what book you

specifically need, but this is the one I needed.What's there to say? It's a text book with a ton of information that coincides with my class. It's not like I'd read this outside of class or anything, but it's exactly what I needed.

Simply the best book on Soil Genesis and Geomorphology. Compared to other books on the subject, this one not only provides greater depth but is also better organized and illustrated. The superb synthesis of information will make this a useful book for both students of Soil Science and related disciplines. Typically to get a full picture of Soil Genesis and Geomorphology, as presented in this book, one would have to reference multiple books and journal articles.Hopefully this book will become THE standard for courses on Soil Genesis and Geomorphology. Typically Soil Genesis is taught in conjunction with Soil Classification, rather than Soil Geomorphology. Therefore such courses (and books) cover similar information on Soil Genesis, but lectures (and chapters) are organized around the higher taxonomic classes (Soil Orders), instead of soil processes such as in this book. Soil Classification is an important aspect of Soil Science. Therefore, this book provides a thorough chapter on Soil Classification and Mapping, which covers the components and historical developments of Soil Taxonomy.I can only think of two shortcoming of this book. The first is that due to its size, it would be impossible to cover all this material in a single college semester. Therefore, Instructors (and students) will have to decide what material to cover. The second it that it does not incorporate information on recent technological developments pertinent to Soil Genesis and Geomorphology, such as addressed by Pedometrics or Geomorphometry. Hopefully in future additions the authors can remedy this omission.

This book was begging to be written for the longest time. Thank goodness Randy went ahead and did it. The book fills a void in soil science by linking soil formation and geomorphology, an obvious connection. It is well-written in terms of organization and style. I can tell that Randy certainly enjoys studying soils, as his enthusiasm pours off the pages. Not only that, but he and his co-author clearly have the knowledge and background to put forth such a work.I recommend this book for anyone interested in soils, but especially for a college-level text book for any soils-related course.

I am an adult student in a 13-course Natural History curriculim run by the local Audubon society and the USDA. Of all the soils books I have sampled, this one provides the greatest depth and range and seemingly endless new avenues for appreciation and discovery. It's a lifetime investment for a life-time of learning. The new price is very steep, so it's worth waiting for a used copy to become

available at a reasonable price.

This is a laudable first edition textbook in a field that has gone for some time without a satisfying reference. The subject matter is the science of how soils form in relation to geology and landform.The subject matter is extremely dense but clearly and engagingly presented, and in a meaningful sequence. A background in soil science and mineralogy is helpful but not critical. Especially welcome are the tables that compile information and the graphs and diagrams that illustrate key concepts. There are no color plates as in other soils textbooks but I did not find this a glaring omission.Although I am sure there are some weaknesses or omissions, I did appreciate the global perspective -- the authors are not bound to any one school of interpretation or classification system. The book is also very successful in providing the history of how this field of study developed and in depicting the contributions (and personalities) of the scientists who founded pedogenesis and geomorphorphology. However dry soil science may appear to non-specialists, it appears to be populated by colorful characters so it is nice to get a sense of that in a textbook.A couple of topics are given short shrift in my opinion -- such as wetland formation and classification, the peneplain concept, and the utilization of advanced technologies (GIS, remote sensing) to advance analysis and landscape-scale applications. I also found the index inadequate in searching for topics of interest, having better luck with the table of contents.This is an auspicious start for a much-needed reference that I hope will see future editions.

Very well thought out progression of soils history etc. Great educational tool and resource document for beginners and experienced soil scientists.

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