

CE 317 - GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING I

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Course Text:

Holtz, R. D and Kovacs, W. D. *Introduction to Geotechnical Engineering*, Prentice Hall.

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to Geotechnical Engineering terminology and will teach you the basics of soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering design. You will obtain a firm foundation for the continuation to more theoretical and applied aspects of foundation engineering, dam engineering, soil dynamics, and earthquake engineering.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course you should be able to solve common problems faced by geotechnical engineers and you should have a solid understanding of the basic principles of soil mechanics.

Laboratory Requirements:

1. Attendance to each lab session is mandatory.
2. Groups perform lab experiments and the laboratory report is submitted as a group report. One person each week is responsible for the preparation of the group report and this person is rotated each week. The report grade applies to the entire group.
3. The lab reports are due on the day of the following laboratory session, unless otherwise stated by the TA. The lab report will be considered late if it is not received before 3 p.m. on the due date. Late reports will be penalized.
4. The lab reports must be typed and conform to the format provided in class. Note that graphs must be plotted using appropriate computer software.
5. Since this an M designated course, the laboratory reports will be graded for technical writing and organization in addition to the technical content.
6. Laboratory reports can be reviewed and resubmitted to improve the writing component of the grade.

Homework Requirements:

1. All homework and design problems must be handed in on engineering paper. The pages should be numbered and stapled together. One problem per page only!
2. Each problem should be clearly labeled and the solution should be presented in a logical manner. All solution steps should be included. An assignment may be returned without a grade if the solution procedure is difficult to follow.
3. Each answer should be placed in a box.
4. All homework will be due at the beginning of class one week after the day it is assigned

- (Fridays). No late homework will be accepted.
5. Students missing more than one homework assignment will have to talk to the instructor prior to taking any of the exams and will be required to do make-up problems.

Class Participation

Assistance is mandatory and absences may be detrimental to your final grade. Assistance will be evaluated through pop-quizzes and class participation. Pop-quizzes will cover reading assignments and material from previous lectures. Reading assignments will be posted in the class web page. There is no make-up for quizzes missed because of tardiness.

Test Policy:

There will be two mid-term tests and a comprehensive final.

Exam I - 7th Week
Exam II - 12th Week
Final - Thursday May 1st, 8:00 AM
Sorry, no make up exams.

Course Grading Policy:

The test, laboratory, and homework average will determine the final grade. A weighted average grade will be calculated as follows:

Lab Reports	20 % (10% Presentation; 10% Results)
Homework	10 %
Mid-term Exams	20 % each
Final Exam	30 %

The grades will not be curved. A grade of 93 or above is guaranteed a course grade of A, 83 or higher at least B, 73 or higher at least C, and 63 or higher at least D. Grades slightly above and below the cutoff grade constitute a “gray area” within which a \pm system will be used. Considerations for a higher or lower grade within these gray areas will include your work during the laboratory sessions as judged by your peers and the laboratory instructor, as well as class participation.

Students with Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Disability Resource Center (DRC). All accommodations MUST be approved through the DRC (Washington Building, Room 217). Stop by or call 509-335-3417 to make an appointment with a disability specialist. See <http://www.drc.wsu.edu>

Academic Integrity: All members of the University community share responsibility for maintaining and promoting the principles of truth and academic honesty. The Office of Student Conduct has a policy defining academic dishonesty and the procedures to follow if dishonesty occurs. This information can be found at <http://www.conduct.wsu.edu>

Cheating or plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying work or allowing your work to be copied. Plagiarism includes copying homework solutions, or resubmitting graded assignments or lab reports from a previous semester, even if they were your own work. All incidences of cheating will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs. If academic dishonesty has occurred on any homework, test or other assignment, the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and the student(s) involved will receive no credit (a score of zero) for that particular material. A second incident of cheating will result in possible dismissal from the University.

Safety on Campus: The University is committed to the safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The Campus Safety Plan can be found at <http://safetyplan.wsu.edu> contains information related to campus safety, emergency management, and the health and welfare of the campus community. The university emergency management web site is <http://oem.wsu.edu/emergencies>. Students are encouraged to visit both these sites.

College Success Workshops: Workshops on test preparation, time management, note taking and comprehension and reading strategies are available online at <http://students.careers.wsu.edu/default.asp?PageID=3037>.