

**Western University - Faculty of Engineering**  
**Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering**

**CEE 3321A – Soil Mechanics and Hydrogeological Engineering - Course**  
**Outline 2017/18**

This is the first introductory course in the fundamentals of geotechnical engineering for students enrolled in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The students are required to attend lectures, conduct laboratory experiments to measure the engineering properties of soil, interpret experimental data, and submit laboratory results in complete and concise reports. The general objectives are for the student to become able to:

- Understand the origin and composition of soil.
- Formulate and analysis soil volume and weight relationship and determine its density, water content and void ratio.
- Conduct basic experiments for soil classification according to standard procedures.
- Identify soil type and classify the soil based on engineering standards.
- Conduct laboratory Proctor compaction test for the determination of soil maximum density.
- Solve 1D and 2D seepage problems based on Darcy's law and graphical procedures.

**Calendar Copy:**

Soil classification, clay mineralogy, soil compaction, and one- and two-dimensional steady state flow in natural and engineered systems.

**Contact Hours:**

2 lecture hours/week; 4 laboratory/tutorial hours; (recommended additional personal study - 3 hours/week). Attendance at the tutorial/laboratory session is **mandatory**

**Prerequisites:** AM 2411 or AM 2415

**Corequisites:**

**Antirequisite:** CEE3326

**Note:** It is the **student's responsibility** to ensure that all Prerequisite and Corequisite conditions are met or that special permission to waive these requirements has been granted by the Faculty. It is also the **student's responsibility** to ensure that they have not taken a course listed as an Antirequisite. The student may be dropped from the course or not given credit for the course towards their degree if they violate the Prerequisite, Corequisite or Antirequisite conditions. The decisions regarding either prerequisite or anti-requisite may not be appealed.

**Instructor:**

Dr. A. Sadrekarimi, P. Eng., SEB3010D, email: [asadrek@uwo.ca](mailto:asadrek@uwo.ca). Administrative Support: SEB 3005

**Textbook:**

Coduto, D. P., Yeung, M R, and Kitch, W A “Geotechnical Engineering, Principles and Practices”, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2011. Required.

Prepared class notes should be brought to each class, and may be downloaded from the course website (<http://owl.uwo.ca>).

**Lab manual:**

Das B.M. “Soil Mechanics Laboratory Manual” 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, Oxford University Press. 2013.

**Laboratory:**

Four mandatory afternoon laboratory sessions for:

- A) Soil grain size distribution (sieving and hydrometer analysis)
- B) Atterberg limits
- C) Proctor compaction test
- D) Seepage analysis

The laboratory experiments should be conducted in groups of 6 to 8 students. Laboratory reports should be prepared individually and submitted to Locker #55, Second Floor of the Spencer Engineering Building, at 4:30 pm on the Monday afternoon immediately following the laboratory. Late reports will be deducted 0.5 (out of 4 marks) per day and will not be accepted 7 days after the due date.

**Computing:**

Assignments may require the use of Microsoft Excel for calculation and developing engineering plots.

**Units:**

SI units will be used in lectures and examinations

**Specific Learning Objectives:**

1. Soil Characterisation
  - a) Identify basic soil groups
  - b) Draw soil grain size distribution curves based on sieve and hydrometer analyses results
  - c) Describe the basic structure and engineering properties of three clay minerals: kaolinite, illite, and montmorillonite and the general physical and chemical properties of soil-water systems.
  - d) Measure soil Atterberg limits (PL, LL and PI)
  
2. Soil Classification
  - a) Classify soils based on the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS)
  - b) Calculate soil properties using phase relations
  
3. Soil Compaction
  - a) Perform lab compaction tests
  - b) Draw theoretical and experimental compaction curves
  - c) Determine the optimal water content and maximum dry density of a soil
  - d) Establish quality control criteria for field compaction works
  - e) List typical engineering applications of soil compaction
  
4. Seepage and Groundwater Flow
  - a) Describe the concepts of steady-state groundwater seepage and pore water pressure
  - b) Understand the nature of seepage flow in soil
  - c) Define and apply Darcy’s law to calculate the steady-state groundwater flow
  - d) Define and measure hydraulic conductivity of soil and know magnitudes of hydraulic conductivities of gravel, sand and clay soils
  - e) Understand critical hydraulic gradient and its engineering significance
  - f) Define the governing equation for 2D steady-state seepage flow in soil and solve the equation using the flow-net. Draw flow nets for engineering applications, including (1) calculate the seepage flow in isotropic and anisotropic soils, (2) calculate the pore water pressure in soil and (3) calculate the uplifting force due to seepage.
  - g) Use the computer program Seep/W to analyze seepage

**General Learning Objectives**

E=Evaluate, T=Teach, I=Introduce

Problem Analysis	E	Team Work	T	Ethics and Equity	
Investigation	E	Communication	I	Economics and Project Management	
Design	E	Professionalism	I	Life-Long Learning	I
Engineering Tools	T	Impact on Society			

## Evaluation:

The final course mark will be determined as follows:

Homework assignments:	15%
Lab reports:	15%
Mid-term quiz:	20%
Final exam:	50%
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Total	100%

- Note:
- (a) **Students must pass the final examination to pass this course.** Students who fail the final examination will be assigned the aggregate mark, as determined above, or 48%, whichever is less.
  - (b) **Students must turn in all laboratory reports, attend all labs, and achieve a passing grade in the laboratory component, to pass this course.** Students who do not satisfy this requirement will be assigned 48% or the aggregate mark, whichever is less.
  - (c) **Students who have failed this course previously must repeat all components of the course.** No special permissions will be granted enabling a student to retain laboratory, assignment or test marks from previous years. Previously completed assignments and laboratories cannot be resubmitted.
  - (d) Should any of the exams conflict with a religious holiday that a student wishes to observe, the student must inform the instructor of the conflict no later than two weeks before the scheduled test. (For further information on Accommodations for Religious Holidays see [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_religious.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf))

### 1. Examinations:

A 50-minute mid-term exam will be scheduled during the lecture period on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Programmable calculators are **not** permitted in the mid-term and final exams. The final examination will be 3 hours, held during the examination period of the fall term. Both the mid-term and the final examinations will be **CLOSED BOOK: no programmable calculators or other external sources of information, including books, notes or crib sheets, are permitted.** In addition to the material covered in the class lectures, the exams may include questions from the laboratory portion of the class. Students will need to bring their own calculator, straight edge, compass, and protractor to the exams.

### 2. Assignments

Homework assignments will be posted on the course website (<http://owl.uwo.ca>). The assignments should be solved individually and submitted on the due date (shown on the first page of each assignment) at **4:30 p.m. in LOCKER #55, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, SEB.** Late submissions will be deducted 10% per day and not be accepted 7 days after the due date. Data plots and other figures may be

drawn with a computer or by hand on graph paper. When needed, neatly draw all sketches and data plots using a straight edge, French curve, compass, etc., and show all relevant labels. When feasible, site plans and schematics should be drawn to a proportional scale. Failure to submit legible, neat, professional looking assignments will adversely affect assignment marks.

### 3. Tutorials

Tutorial sessions will be available every week for your benefit and learning. At the beginning of each tutorial session, the teaching assistants will display the assignment problems and the student groups should solve those problems. The TA will then review and provide the solutions for the past assignments, and answer student questions.

### 4. Use of English

In accordance with Senate and Faculty Policy, students may be penalised up to 10% of the marks on all assignments, tests, and examinations for the improper use of English. Additionally, poorly written work with the exception of the final examination may be returned without grading. If resubmission of the work is permitted, it may be graded with marks deducted for poor English and/or late submission.

### **Plagiarism Checking:**

The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students are required to submit their Laboratory Reports in electronic form to Turnitin.com for plagiarism checking.

### **Cheating:**

University policy states that cheating is a scholastic offence. The commission of a scholastic offence is attended by academic penalties that might include expulsion from the program. If you are caught cheating, there will be no second warning. For more information on scholastic offenses, please see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Attendance:**

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class, laboratory, or tutorial periods will be reported to the Dean (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean, the student will be debarred from taking the regular final examination in the course.

### **Accessibility:**

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services

for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

### **Conduct:**

Students are expected to arrive at lectures on time, and to conduct themselves during class in a professional and respectful manner that is not disruptive to others. Late comers may be asked to wait outside the classroom until being invited in by the Instructor. Please turn off your cell phone before coming to a class, tutorial, quiz or exam.

On the premises of the University or at a University-sponsored program, students must abide by the Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>

### **Sickness and Other Problems:**

Students should immediately consult with the Instructor or Department Chair if they have any problems that could affect their performance in the course. Where appropriate, the problems should be documented (see attached). The student should seek advice from the Instructor or Department Chair regarding how best to deal with the problem. Failure to notify the Instructor or Department Chair immediately (or as soon as possible thereafter) will have a negative effect on any appeal.

Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help

For more information concerning medical accommodations, please see: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

### **Notice:**

Students are responsible for regularly checking their email, course website (<https://owl.uwo.ca>) and notices posted outside the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department Office

### **Consultation:**

Students are encouraged to discuss problems with their teaching assistant and/or instructor in tutorial sessions. Office hours will be arranged for the students to see the instructor and teaching assistants. Other individual consultation can be arranged by appointment with the appropriate instructor.

### **Course breakdown:**

Engineering Science = 60%; Engineering design = 40%

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS UNABLE TO WRITE TESTS OR EXAMINATIONS OR SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS AS SCHEDULED**

IF, ON MEDICAL OR COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS, YOU ARE UNABLE TO WRITE TERM TESTS OR FINAL EXAMINATIONS OR COMPLETE COURSE WORK BY THE DUE DATE, YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS LISTED BELOW. YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT ACADEMIC RELIEF WILL NOT BE GRANTED AUTOMATICALLY ON REQUEST. YOU MUST DEMONSTRATE TO YOUR DEPARTMENT (OR THE UNDERGRADUATE SERVICES OFFICE) THAT THERE ARE COMPELLING MEDICAL OR COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS THAT CAN BE DOCUMENTED BEFORE ACADEMIC RELIEF WILL BE CONSIDERED. DIFFERENT REGULATIONS APPLY TO TERM TESTS, FINAL EXAMINATIONS AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS. PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. (SEE THE 2017 UWO ACADEMIC CALENDAR).

**A. GENERAL REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES**

1. All first year students will report to the Undergraduate Services Office, SEB 2097, for all instances.
2. If you are an upper year student and you are missing a test/assignment/lab or exam that is worth MORE THAN 10% of your final grade, you will report to the Undergraduate Services Office, SEB 2097. Otherwise, you will report to your department office to request relief.
3. Check the course outline to see if the instructor has a policy for missed tests, examinations, late assignments or attendance.
4. Documentation must be provided as soon as possible. If no one is available in your Department office or the Undergraduate Services Office, leave a message clearly stating your name & student number and reason for your call. The department telephone numbers are given at the end of these instructions.
5. If you decide to write a test or an examination you should be prepared to accept the mark you earn. Rewriting tests or examinations or having the value of a test or examination reweighted on a retroactive basis is not permitted.

**B. TERM TESTS**

1. If you are in first year and you are unable to write a term test, contact the Undergraduate Services Office, SEB 2097 PRIOR to the scheduled date of the test.
2. If you are an upper year student and you are unable to write a term test, inform your instructor PRIOR to the scheduled date of the test. If the instructor is not available, leave a message for him/her at the department office. If the test is worth MORE THAN 10% of your final grade you will report to the Undergraduate Services Office, SEB 2097 to request relief. Otherwise, you will report to your department office to request relief.
3. Be prepared to provide supporting documentation to the Department Chair and/or the Undergraduate Services Office (see next page for information on documentation).
4. Discuss with the instructor if and when the test can be rescheduled. **N.B.** The approval of the Chair or the Undergraduate Services Office is required when rescheduling term tests.

**C. FINAL EXAMINATIONS**

1. If you are unable to write a final examination, contact the Undergraduate Services Office PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED EXAMINATION TIME to request permission to write a Special Final Examination. If no one is available in the Undergraduate Services Office, leave a message clearly stating your name & student number.
2. Be prepared to provide the Undergraduate Services Office with supporting documentation (see next page for information on documentation) the next day, or as soon as possible (in cases where students are hospitalized). The following circumstances are not considered grounds for missing a final examination or requesting special examinations: common cold, sleeping in, misreading timetable and travel arrangements.
3. In order to receive permission to write a Special Examination, you must obtain the approval of the Chair of the Department **and** the Associate Dean and in order to apply you must sign a "Recommendation for a Special Examination Form" available in the Undergraduate Services Office. The Undergraduate Services Office will then notify the course instructor(s) and reschedule the examination on your behalf.

**N.B. It is the student's responsibility to check the date, time and location of the Special Examination.**

**D. LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Advise the instructor if you are having problems completing the assignment on time (**prior** to the due date of the assignment).
2. Be prepared to provide documentation if requested by the instructor (see reverse side for information on documentation).
3. If you are granted an extension, establish a due date. The approval of the Chair of your Department (or the Associate Dean if you are in first year) is not required if assignments will be completed prior to the last day of classes.
4.
  - i) Extensions beyond the end of classes must have the consent of the instructor, the department Chair and the Associate Dean. Documentation is mandatory.
  - ii) A Recommendation of Incomplete Form must be filled out indicating the work to be completed and the date by which it is due. This form must be signed by the student, the instructor, the department Chair and the Associate Dean.

## E. SHORT ABSENCES

If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problem, check your course outlines for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test, laboratory or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate.

## F. EXTENDED ABSENCES

If you are absent more than one week or if you get too far behind to catch up, you should consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses. (Note drop deadlines listed below). You may want to seek advice from the academic counsellor in your Department or Ms. Karen Murray in the Undergraduate Services Office, if you are in first year.

## G. DOCUMENTATION

If you consulted an off-campus doctor or Student Health Services regarding your illness or personal problem, **you must provide the doctor with a Student Medical Certificate** to complete at the time of your visit and then bring it to the Department (or the Undergraduate Services Office). **This note must contain the following information: severity of illness, effect on academic studies and duration of absence. Regular doctor's notes will not be accepted; only the Student Medical Certificate will be accepted.**

**In Case of Serious Illness of a Family Member:** Provide a Student Medical Certificate to your family member's physician to complete and bring it to the Department (or the Undergraduate Services Office if you are in first year).

**In Case of a Death:** Obtain a copy of the death certificate or the notice provided by the funeral director's office. You must include your relationship to the deceased and bring it to the Department (or the Undergraduate Services Office if you are in first year).

**For Other Extenuating Circumstances:** If you are not sure what documentation to provide, ask the Departmental Office (or the Undergraduate Services Office if you are in first year) for direction.

**Note:** Forged notes and certificates will be dealt with severely. To submit a forged document is a scholastic offence (see below).

## H. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

1. You need to know if your instructors have a policy on late penalties, missed tests, etc. This information may be included on the course outlines. If not, ask your instructor(s).
2. **You should also be aware of attendance requirements in some courses. You can be debarred from writing the final examination if your attendance is not satisfactory.**
3. If you are in academic difficulty, check out the minimum requirements for progression in the calendar. If in doubt, see your academic counsellor.

**Calendar References:** Check these regulations in your 2017 Western Academic Calendar available at [www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca).

Absences Due to Illness: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg117.html>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg118.html>

Academic Accommodations for Religious or Holy Days: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg119.html>

Course Withdrawals: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg157.html>

Examinations: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg129.html>

Scheduling of Term Assignments: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg135.html>

Scholastic Offences: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg111.html>

Student Medical Certificate: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

Engineering Academic Regulations: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg1442.html>

**Note:** These instructions apply to all students registered in the Faculty of Engineering regardless of whether the courses are offered by the Faculty of Engineering or other faculties in the University.

### **Drop Deadlines:**

First term half course (i.e. "A" or "F"):	November 5, 2017
Full courses and full-year half courses (i.e. "E", "Y" or no suffix):	November 30, 2017
Second term half or second term full course (i.e. "B" or "G"):	March 7, 2017

### **Contact Information:**

Undergraduate Services Office:	SEB 2097	Telephone: (519) 661-2130	E-mail: <a href="mailto:engugrad@uwo.ca">engugrad@uwo.ca</a>
Dept. of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering & Green Process Engineering:	TEB 477	Telephone: (519) 661-2131	E-mail: <a href="mailto:cbeugrad@uwo.ca">cbeugrad@uwo.ca</a>
Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering:	SEB 3005	Telephone: (519) 661-2139	E-mail: <a href="mailto:civil@uwo.ca">civil@uwo.ca</a>
Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Software Engineering & Mechatronics Engineering:	TEB 279	Telephone: (519) 661-3758	E-mail: <a href="mailto:eceugrad@uwo.ca">eceugrad@uwo.ca</a>
Dept. of Mechanical and Materials Engineering:	SEB 3002	Telephone: (519) 661-4122	E-mail: <a href="mailto:mmeundergraduate@uwo.ca">mmeundergraduate@uwo.ca</a>