# The University of Western Ontario Faculty of Engineering Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering

# CBE 4416 Carbon Footprint and Management Course Outline - Fall 2025

### **Course Summary**

Carbon is central to our existing energy framework, and combustion of hydrocarbons makes up a significant part of our energy systems. Carbon dioxide emissions result from many sectors, including industrial processes, food production, landfills, wastewater treatment systems, heating/cooling, transportation, etc. As the effects of climate change grow, it is imperative that we effectively manage our carbon resources to ensure that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and atmospheric concentrations are reduced, without compromising our ability to meet society's energy and material needs. This course will cover topics such as the primary sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and their comparative impacts. We will cover emerging technologies for CO<sub>2</sub> capture from industrial processes and from the air, and approaches to CO<sub>2</sub> storage and its conversion to useful products. We will discuss the comparative advantages and disadvantages of each approach, focusing on both the technical details as well as the practical challenges of implementing these technologies.

Prerequisite: CBE 3315, CBE 3324, CBE 2224/2214, CBE 2220

**Corequisites/Anti-requisites:** None

Classes Lectures: M 10:30-12:30

Th 10:30-11:30 Tutorial: W 12:30-1:30

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# **Course Content:**

# I Carbon Cycle

- Fast and slow carbon cycles
- Anthropogenic sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Global warming potential of greenhouse gases

• CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power generation

# II Carbon dioxide capture

- Solvent technologies for CO<sub>2</sub> capture from power plants
- Sorbent technologies for CO<sub>2</sub> capture from power plants
- Membrane technologies for CO<sub>2</sub> capture from power plants

# III Carbon dioxide utilization and storage

- Catalytic conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> to fuels and chemicals
- CO<sub>2</sub> conversion to materials
- Geological storage of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Integrated CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage

#### **Learning Outcomes**

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- Describe the concept of carbon cycle, including major sources and sinks for CO<sub>2</sub>
- Identify the primary anthropogenic sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Calculate the greenhouse gas emissions from various power generation processes, accounting for global warming potential
- Describe and compare different technologies for CO<sub>2</sub> capture
- Understand how chemical engineering principles are used to design carbon capture and conversion processes
- Evaluate the feasibility and economic implications of technologies for CO<sub>2</sub> capture and conversion to fuels and chemicals
- Recommend specific technologies for CO<sub>2</sub> utilization and storage, by considering the context, cost, and scalability

#### **Course Notes**

Most of the course notes (not all) will be available for download from the course website. However, solutions to the problems and some of the materials used for discussions in class will not be posted on the course site. It is expected that notes on these materials will be recorded by the students during the lecture.

#### **Evaluation**

The final mark breakdown will be as follows:

Project 1 – Carbon Controlling Technologies: 15%
Project 2\* – Carbon Capture and Utilization: 15%
Midterm Exam: 30%
Final Exam: 40%

**Note:** If a student misses a midterm exam due to illness or compassionate reasons, appropriate documentation must be provided and procedures described below must be followed. The weight of the midterm exam will be transferred to the final exam.

<sup>\*</sup> Self reported absences may not be applied to Project 2.

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will take place on October 20.

# **Important Note on Course Format**

Students registered for this course are expected to attend all classes and tutorials, and are required to be present to complete midterm and final exams in person. Any absence from an exam (without an appropriate letter of excuse through Undergraduate Student Services) will result in a grade of 0.

# **Text Book**

The following useful reference books will be useful and cover some of the material discussed in class. Additional references will be provided in the lecture notes.

- 1. Carbon Capture and Storage, Stephen A. Rackley, Second Edition, 2017.
- 2. Carbon Dioxide Utilisation: Closing the Carbon Cycle, Peter Styring, Elsje Alessandra Quadrelli, and Katy Armstrong, First Edition, 2015. Electronically Available.

# Graduate Attribute Assessment for Accreditation by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board

Graduate	Indicator	Assessment tool	Assessment
Attribute			Level
Impact of	IE1 Ability to analyze the	Effectively quantify	D: Developed
Engineering on	interactions of engineering	environmental impacts of	
Society and the	with economic, social,	engineering processes	
Environment	health, safety, legal and		
	cultural aspects of society.		
Impact of	IE2 – Demonstrate	Assess existing process for its	D: Developed
Engineering on	understanding of the	scope of impact, technology,	
Society and the	concept of sustainable	and feasibility.	
Environment	design and development.		
A Knowledge	KB3 - Demonstrate	Students can apply principles	A: Applied
Base for	competence in	of reaction engineering to	
Engineering	engineering fundamentals	carbon capture and	
		conversion system	
A Knowledge	KB4 - Demonstrate	Student can apply engineering	A: Applied
Base for	competence in specialized	principles such as material	
Engineering	engineering knowledge	and energy balances, reaction	
		engineering, transport, and	
		process design to carbon	
		capture systems.	

CEAB Academic Units: Engineering Science 75%; Engineering Design 25%

#### <u>Notice</u>

Students are responsible for regularly checking their Western email and notices posted on the OWL course site.

### **Consultation**

Individual consultation with the instructor can be arranged by appointment.

#### **Email policy**

Students wishing to communicate with the instructor by email should communicate through the OWL site. Students should allow a minimum of 2 business days to get a reply.

# Missed/Late Accommodation Policy

- 1. Students missing an assignment or examination will need to report the absence by submitting Academic Consideration Request form through <u>STUDENT ABSENCE PORTAL</u>.
- 2. Documentation must be provided as soon as possible.

## **Exam Accommodation**

- 1. If you are unable to write a final examination, report your absence using the Academic Consideration Request Form through <u>STUDENT ABSENCE PORTAL</u>.
- 2. Be prepared to provide the Undergraduate Services Office with supporting 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, headache, 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 submit an the Academic Consideration Request Form through <u>STUDENT ABSENCE PORTAL</u>.
  - PLEASE NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to check the date, time and location of the Special Examination.

#### **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 submit the Academic Consideration Request Form and provide documentation if requested by the instructor.
- 3. If you are granted an extension, establish a due date. The approval of the Chair of your Department (or the Assistant Dean, First Year Studies, if you are in first year) is not required if assignments will be completed prior to the last day of classes.

#### **Medical Accommodation**

- 1. Requests for Academic Consideration Request Form through <u>STUDENT ABSENCE PORTAL</u>.
- 2. Requests for academic consideration must include the following components:
  - a. Self-attestation signed by the student (*This is only accepted for one absence, and may not be used for Project 2*)
  - b. Medical note

- c. Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) affected by the request
- d. Supporting documentation as relevant
- 3. Requests without supporting documentation are limited to one per term per course.
- 4. Students must request academic consideration as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

Once the request and supporting documents have been received and reviewed, appropriate academic consideration, if granted, shall be determined by the instructor in consultation with the academic advisor, in a manner consistent with the course outline.

### **Religious Accommodation**

When scheduling unavoidably conflicts with religious holidays, which (a) require an absence from the University or (b) prohibit or require certain activities (i.e., activities that would make it impossible for the student to satisfy the academic requirements scheduled on the day(s) involved), no student will be penalized for absence because of religious reasons, and alternative means will be sought for satisfying the academic requirements involved. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

# **Academic Integrity**

In the Faculty of Engineering, we encourage students to create a culture of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage, befitting the professional degree you are pursuing.

Please visit Academic Integrity Western Engineering for more information

#### **Academic Offences**

Plagiarism means using another's work without giving credit. The university has rules against plagiarism and other scholastic offences. Western Engineering has a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism. The minimum penalty is zero on the course work and a repeat offence will earn you zero on the course. A third offence may lead to expulsion from the university.

Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students & Cheating, Plagiarism and Unauthorized Collaboration: What Students Need to Know

Students must write their reports, essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. University policy states that cheating, including plagiarism, is a scholastic offence. The commission of a scholastic offence is attended by academic penalties, which might include expulsion from the program. If you are caught cheating, there will be no second warning.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents on the reference database for the purpose

of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between the University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com). Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, in the relevant section of the Academic Handbook:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\_policies/appeals/scholastic\_discipline\_undergrad.pdf

# **Repeating All Components of the Course**

In accordance with Senate and Faculty Policy, students who have failed an Engineering course (i.e. <50%) must repeat all components of the course. No special permissions will be granted enabling a student to retain assignment or test marks from previous years. Previously completed assignments cannot be resubmitted for grading by the student in subsequent years.

### **Use of English Policy**

In accordance with Senate and Faculty Policy, students may be penalized up to 10% of the marks on all assignments, tests, and examinations for improper use of English. Additionally, poorly written work except for 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.

# **Accessibility**

Western is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons with disabilities studying, visiting and working at Western. As part of this commitment, there are a variety of services, groups and committees on campus devoted to promoting accessibility and to ensuring that individuals have equitable access to services and facilities. To help provide the best experience to all members of the campus community, please visit the <u>Accessibility Western</u> University for information on accessibility-related resources available at Western.

Students with disabilities may arrange for academic accommodation at Western. For a more detailed explanation, please visit <u>Academic Support & Engagement - Academic Accommodation</u>.

# **Inclusivity, Diversity, and Respect**

The Faculty of Engineering at Western University is committed to creating equitable and inclusive learning environments that value diverse perspectives and experiences. We strive to facilitate equitable experiences and inclusion within the classroom by respecting and integrating multiple ways of knowing, being, and doing, and treating all students equitably regardless of Indigeneity, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, ability, gender identity, gender expression, sexuality, age, language, and socioeconomic status. Please visit the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for additional information.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner that is not disruptive to others, both in class and during course-related interactions outside the classroom.

# **Health and Well-Being**

- <u>Health & Wellness Services Students</u> Offers appointment-based medical clinic for all registered part-time and full-time students.
- <u>Mental Health Support</u> Provides professional and confidential services, free of charge, to students needing assistance to meet their personal, social and academic goals. Services include consultation, referral, groups and workshops, as well as brief, change-oriented psychotherapy.
- <u>Crisis Support</u> For immediate assistant, please visit Thames Hall Room 2170 or call 519-661-3030. The crisis clinic operates between 11:00 am 4:30 pm. For after-hours crisis support, <u>click here</u>.
- Gender-Based Violence and Survivor Support Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, <a href="here">here</a>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

### **Important Contacts**

Engineering Undergraduate Services	SEB 2097	519-661-2130	engugrad@uwo.ca
Civil & Environmental Engineering	SEB 3005	519-661-2139	civil@uwo.ca
Office of the Registrar/Student	WSSB 1120	519-661-2100	
<u>Central</u>			

#### **Important Links**

- WESTERN ACADEMIC CALENDAR
- ACADEMIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- ENGINEERING PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS AND ACADEMIC REGULATIONS
- UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' COUNCIL (USC) SERVICES
- IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES
- ACADEMIC CONSIDERATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
- ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS
- SCHEDULING OF ASSIGNMENTS, TESTS, AND EXAMINATIONS
- STUDENT FORMS
- OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
- RETENTION OF ELECTRONIC VERSION OF COURSE OUTLINES (SYLLABI)
- ACADEMIC APPEALS
- STUDENT ABSENCE PORTAL