

CEE 3322B – Introduction to Geotechnical Engineering - Course Outline 2025/26

This is the second course in soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering for students enrolled in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The students are required to attend lectures, participate in laboratory sessions to measure the engineering properties of soil, interpret experimental data, attend tutorial sessions, prepare complete and concise laboratory reports. The general objectives are for the student to become able to:

- Calculate total and effective stress in soil
- Analysis of simple stress distribution in soil medium.
- Understand the concepts of soil consolidation including primary consolidation, secondary compression and time-rate of consolidation.
- Analyse one-dimensional settlement
- Understand soil shear strength and its measurement using laboratory experiments

Calendar Copy:

A continuation of CEE 3322B. Effective stress analysis, one dimensional settlement and consolidation theories for clayey soils, time-rate of consolidation, shear strength of soils.

Prerequisites:

CEE 3321A, CEE220A/B

Anti-requisites:

None

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 Anti-requisite. 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 Anti-requisite conditions.

Contact Hours:

3 lecture hours/week; 2.0 laboratory hours 3 times per term; 2.0 tutorial hours 3 times per term (recommended additional personal study - 3 hours/week). Attendance at the laboratory sessions is **mandatory**.

Lectures will be delivered in person. Lectures will be organized into learning modules which students should review on a weekly basis. Intermittent quizzes will be used to track participation. Review of lecture material and self-study should take approximately 3 hours per week. Three tutorial sessions will be delivered during the scheduled tutorial hours. Tutorials are not mandatory but students seeking assistance with assignments or clarification on lecture material are strongly encouraged to attend.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

Instructor:



Required Textbook:

Coduto, D. P., Yeung, M R, and Kitch, W A “Geotechnical Engineering, Principles and Practices”, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 2nd edition, 2011. Students need to purchase the 2nd or newer editions of this book.

Textbook cost: \$288 (<https://www.amazon.ca>)

Lab manual:

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

Cost: \$46.8 (<https://www.amazon.ca>)

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Laboratory:

Three mandatory laboratory reports should be submitted for:

- A) Consolidation Oedometer Test
- B) Direct Shear Test
- C) Triaxial Compression Shear Test

Laboratory reports should be prepared in groups and submitted online to the course website by 4:30 pm of the specific due dates which will be announced by the instructor for each lab. Late reports will be deducted 0.5 (out of 4 marks) per day and will not be accepted 7 days after the due date. All reports should be typewritten and graphs prepared using professional drawing software (e.g., MS Excel), and converted to a PDF file for submission. Every report should include a mandatory cover page showing the experiment’s title, submission date, student name and number.

Students must turn in all laboratory reports, attend all laboratory sessions, and achieve a passing grade in the laboratory component, to pass this course. Students who do not satisfy this requirement or miss a laboratory session will be assigned 48% or the aggregate mark, whichever is less.

Computing:

Tutorials/lab reports may require the use of Microsoft Excel for calculation and developing engineering plots.

Units:

Both SI and FPS unit systems may be used in lectures, tutorials and examinations.

Specific Learning Objectives:

The lectures and tutorial assignments will prepare students to do the following [GA Indicator - **Bold** denotes evaluated indicator]:

1. Effective Stress
 - a) Calculate the total stress, pore pressure and effective stress in soil [PA2]
 - b) Define the distribution of stress in the ground using simple methods [PA2]
2. Soil Compressibility and Settlement Analysis
 - a) Describe the components of soil settlement [PA1]
 - b) Calculate primary and secondary settlement of soil [**KB3**]
 - c) Perform consolidation tests [I2]
 - d) Calculate the preconsolidation pressure, compressibility, coefficient of consolidation and stiffness of soils from consolidation test data [I3]
3. Time Rate of Consolidation
 - a) Calculate the degree of consolidation and rate of settlement of clay soils [**PA2**]
 - b) Describe the concept of secondary consolidation [PA1]
4. Shear Strength of Soils
 - a) Define the soil shear strength for short- and long-term conditions [KB3]
 - b) Use Mohr-Coulomb failure criterion to define failure in soil [PA2]
 - c) Describe the shear strengths of sands and clays [PA1]
 - d) Measure the shear strength of sands and clays in laboratory experiments [I3]

The instructor may expand, or revise material presented in the course as appropriate.

General Learning Objectives:

E=Evaluate, T=Teach, I=Introduce; (I) = Introduction, (D) = Developing, (A) = Advanced level

Knowledge Base	E (A)	Engineering Tools		Impact on Society	
Problem Analysis	E (D)	Team Work		Ethics and Equity	
Investigation	T	Communication		Economics and Project Management	
Design		Professionalism		Life-Long Learning	

Accreditation Units:

Engineering Science = 60%; Engineering design = 40%

Evaluation:

The final mark will be determined as follows:

Mid-term Exam	24%
Three Lab Reports	21%
Final Exam	50%
Participation	5%
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 laboratory sessions, and achieve a passing grade in the laboratory component, to pass this course.** Students who do not satisfy this requirement or miss a laboratory session will be assigned 48% or the aggregate mark, whichever is less.
 - (c)** Participation credit will be based on attending lectures throughout the term.
 - (d) 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.

Examination:

A 60-minute mid-term exam will be held tentatively [REDACTED]. The final examination will be 3 hours, held during the examination period of the winter term. In addition to the material covered in the class lectures, the exams may include questions from the laboratory portion of the class. 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 solutions will adversely affect your exam mark. Students will need to bring their own calculator, straight edge, compass, and protractor to the exams.

Participation:

Participation will be assessed based on class attendance and participation in lectures.

Tutorials:

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

I. Missed/Late Accommodation Policy:

1. Students missing a lab or examination you will report the absence by submitting Academic Consideration Request form through [STUDENT ABSENCE PORTAL](#).
2. Documentation must be provided as soon as possible.

II. Exam Accommodation:

1. If you are unable to write a final examination, report your absence using the Academic Consideration Request Form through [STUDENT ABSENCE PORTAL](#).
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, 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 [STUDENT ABSENCE PORTAL](#).
PLEASE NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to check the date, time and location of the Special Examination.

III. Late Assignments:

1. Students must advise the course instructor if they are having difficulty completing an assignment on time (prior to the due date of the assignment).
2. Students should be prepared to submit the Academic Consideration Request Form and provide documentation if requested to do so by the course instructor (see reverse side for information on documentation).
3. If granted an extension, a revised due date should be established with the course instructor. 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.
4. This course has 4 laboratory reports which will be counted towards your final grade. Academic consideration will not be granted for missed laboratory reports. If students miss a laboratory report, they will receive a grade of zero on each missed report.
5. Extensions beyond the end of classes must have the consent of the instructor, the department Chair and the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies. Documentation is mandatory.
6. Late submission of lab reports will be deducted 10% per day and not accepted after 7 days of delays.

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

IV. Medical Accommodation:

1. Requests for Academic Consideration Request Form through [STUDENT ABSENCE PORTAL](#).
2. Requests for academic consideration must include the following components:
 - a. Self-attestation signed by the student (*This is only accepted for the first/one absence*)
 - 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.**
5. 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. Academic consideration may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, or re-weighting of course requirements. Some forms of academic consideration, such as arranging Special Examinations, assigning a grade of Incomplete, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty, may only be granted by the Academic Advising office of the Faculty of Engineering.

V. 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. If a suitable arrangement cannot be worked out between the student and instructor involved, they should consult the appropriate Department Chair and, if necessary, the student's Dean.

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.

VI. 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

VII. 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

VIII. Faculty of Engineering AI Policy:

The use of generative Artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools won't be discouraged in the Faculty of Engineering. As we pride ourselves on building the future we can't hide from the use of GenAI tools to contribute to the

understanding of the course materials. However, the use of GenAI tools in any assignment or contribution during the course will have to be disclosed, as a resource.

GenAI tools use won't be permitted in any type of examination or other assessments where the faculty have prohibited their use. If use of GenAI tools is detected by the instructor in these instances, academic offences penalties might be imposed against the student.

IX. 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.

X. 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 [Accessibility Western 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 [Academic Support & Engagement -Academic Accommodation](#).

XI. 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 recognize that university courses often marginalize students based on social identity characteristics such as, but not limited to, Indigeneity, race, ethnicity, nationality, ability, gender identity, gender expression, sexuality, age, language, religion, and socioeconomic status. Understanding this, we strive to facilitate equitable experiences and inclusion within the classroom by respecting and integrating multiple ways of knowing, being, and doing. Please visit the [Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#).

XII. Health and Well-Being:

- [Health & Wellness Services – Students](#) - Offers appointment-based medical clinic for all registered part-time and full-time students.
- [Mental Health Support](#) - 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.
- [Crisis Support](#) - For immediate assistance, 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, click [here](#).
- [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, [here](#). 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 Central	WSSB 1120	519-661-2100	

Important Links:

- [WESTERN ACADEMIC CALENDAR](#)
- [ACADEMIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES](#)