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

CEE 3322b – Introduction to Geotechnical Engineering - Course Outline  
2019/20  

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, conduct laboratory experiments to measure the engineering properties of soil, interpret experimental data, attend tutorial sessions, submit homework assignments, and 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:**  
Effective stress principles, stress distribution, soil consolidation and compressibility, time-rate of settlement, soil shear strength of soils.

**Contact Hours:**  
3 lecture hours/week; 17 laboratory/tutorial hours in total; (recommended additional personal study - 3 hours/week). Attendance at the laboratory sessions is mandatory.

**Prequisites:**  
CEE3321a, CEE 2202a/b

**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. Administrative Support: SEB 3005

Textbook:


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

Lab manual:


Laboratory:

Three mandatory afternoon laboratory sessions for:

A) Soil Consolidation Test
B) Direct Shear Test
C) Triaxial Compression Shear Test

The laboratory experiments should be conducted by the student groups. Laboratory reports will be due in Locker #55, Second Floor of the Spencer Engineering Building, at 4:30 pm on Thursday the week 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:

Students are required to use personal computers running a Windows environment. 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. **Effective Stress**
   a) Calculate the total stress, pore pressure and effective stress in soil
   b) Define the distribution of stress in the ground using simple methods
   c) Calculate the capillary rise in soil and recognize its influence on soil behaviour.

2. **Soil Compressibility and Settlement Analysis**
   a) Describe the components of soil settlement
   b) Describe the soil compressibility
   c) Calculate immediate settlement of soil
   d) Perform consolidation tests
   e) Calculate the preconsolidation pressure, compressibility, coefficient of consolidation and stiffness of soils from consolidation test data
   f) Perform design calculation for the final settlement of soils

3. **Time Rate of Consolidation**
   a) Describe Terzaghi’s one-dimensional consolidation theory, including assumptions made during the derivation
   b) Calculate the degree of consolidation and degree of settlement of clay soils using analytical and finite difference solutions
   c) Describe the concept of secondary consolidation
   d) Describe the design implications of soil settlement.
   e) Use the computer program Settle3D to analyze ground settlement

4. **Shear Strength of Soils**
   a) Define the soil shear strength for short and long term conditions
   b) Use Mohr-Coulomb failure criterion to define failure in soil
   c) Describe the shear strengths of sand and clay
   d) Describe the peak and residual shear strengths of soils
   e) Measure the shear strength of sands and clays in lab and in-situ
   f) Describe the design implications of the soil shear strength.

General Learning Objectives

E=Evaluate, T=Teach, I=Introduce

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**Evaluation:**

The final course mark will be determined as follows:

- Mid-term exam: 20%
- Lab reports: 30%
- Final exam: 50%

Total 100%

**Note:**

(a) **Students must pass the final examination (by achieving a minimum of 50% in the final exam) 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))

(e) A participation credit of up to 10% will be added to the total course mark for those students who attend all lectures and actively participating in class discussions. This will be based on intermittent attendance checks done by the instructor.

1. Examinations:

A 60-minute midterm exam will be scheduled during a lecture period (2:30 pm to 4:00 pm), on Monday, March 2nd. Programmable calculators are not permitted in the final and mid-term exams. The final examination will be 3 hours, held during the examination period of the fall term. Both the midterm 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. Tutorial Sessions
The course includes several tutorial sessions which will alternate with the laboratory sessions. At the beginning of each tutorial session, a teaching assistant will display series of problems and the students will be asked to first solve those problems on their own. The TA will then review and solve the tutorial questions. Attending tutorial sessions is highly encouraged and recommended to practice relevant problems and prepare for the mid-term and final examinations.

3. 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

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, lab, 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](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/](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](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.

NEW: Requests for Academic Consideration using the Self-Reported Absence Form

If you experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render you unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) you should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where you expect to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

Each student will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August. Self-reporting may not be used for final exams or assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.

For full instructions about the Self-Reporting System refer to the Academic Calendar link here.

A. GENERAL REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES (other than self-reported absences)

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 examination that is worth LESS THAN 10% of your mark, you should report to your department office to request relief. If your course work is worth MORE THAN 10% of your final grade, you will report to the Undergraduate Services Office, SEB 2097.

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/MIDTERM TESTS (other than self-reported absences)

1. If you are in first year and you are unable to write a midterm/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 midterm/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 LESS THAN 10% of your mark, you should report to your department office to request relief. 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.

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 midterm/term tests.
C. **FINAL EXAMINATIONS** (cannot be self-reported)

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, 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 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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** 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 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. i) 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.
   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, Undergraduate Studies.

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 are strongly encouraged to seek advice from your Academic Counsellor in the Undergraduate Services Office.

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 2019 Western Academic Calendar available at www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca.

Self-Reporting Absences
Absences Due to Illness
Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Academic Accommodations for Religious or Holy Days
Course Withdrawals
Examinations
Scheduling of Term Assignments
Scholastic Offences
Student Medical Certificate
Engineering Academic Regulations

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.

Add Deadlines:  
First term half course (i.e. “A” or “F”) September 13, 2019  
Full courses and full-year half course (i.e. “E”, “Y” or no suffix) September 13, 2019  
Second term half course (i.e. “B” or “G”) January 14, 2020

Drop Deadlines:  
First term half course (i.e. “A” or “F”) November 12, 2019  
Full courses and full-year half courses (i.e. “E”, “Y” or no suffix) November 30, 2019  
Second term half or second term full course (i.e. “B” or “G”) March 7, 2020

Contact Information:
Undergraduate Services Office: SEB 2097 Phone: 519-661-2130 E-mail: engugrad@uwo.ca
Chemical & Green Process Engineering: TEB 477 Phone: 519-661-2131 E-mail: cbeugrad@uwo.ca
Civil Engineering: SEB 3005 Phone: 519-661-2139 E-mail: civil@uwo.ca
Computer, Electrical, Mechatronic Systems & Software Engineering TEB 279 Phone: 519-661-3758 E-mail: eceugrad@uwo.ca
Integrated Engineering ACEB 2410 Phone: 519-661-6725 E-mail: engeli@uwo.ca
Mechanical Engineering: SEB 3002 Phone: 519-661-4122 E-mail: mmeundergraduate@uwo.ca

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