

**Western University  
Faculty of Engineering  
Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering**

**MME3360B Finite Element Methods for Mechanical Engineering  
Course Outline 2023-2024**

**Description:** Overview of the finite element method (FEM) and its use to solve general problems in 2-D and 3-D. Applications include structural mechanics, heat transfer and multi-physics problems. Methods and applications of optimization and support of engineering design are also introduced.

**Instructor:** Dr. Pawel M. Kurowski; Ph.D., P.Eng.  
Room: SEB2057A  
Email: [pkurows@uwo.ca](mailto:pkurows@uwo.ca)  
Office hours: by appointment

Timetable information is available at <https://draftmyschedule.uwo.ca/>

**Academic Calendar Copy:**

Overview of the finite element method (FEM) and its use to solve general problems in 1-D, 2-D and 3-D. Applications include structural mechanics, heat transfer and thermal stress. Methods and applications of commercial FEM programs in support of engineering design and analysis are introduced.

**Contact Hours:** 3 lecture hours, 2 laboratory hours (12 laboratories per semester)  
2 tutorial hours (per request), 0.5 course.

**Anti-requisites:** CEE 3384A/B, MSE 3360A/B

**Pre-requisites:** ES 1036A/B or Computer Science 1026A/B, Numerical and Mathematical Methods 2270A/B, MME 2202A/B or MSE 2212A/B, MME 2204A/B or MSE 2214A/B, MSE 2202A/B.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees if you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**CEAB Academic Units:** Engineering Science 80%, Engineering Design 20%.

**Required Textbook:** “Engineering Analysis with SOLIDWORKS Simulation 2023”  
P. Kurowski, SDC Publications, ISBN: 978-1-63057-552-6

**Required Software:** SOLIDWORKS 2023  
Available in computer labs and for installation on students’ computers.

**General Learning Objectives (CEAB Graduate Attributes)**

Knowledge Base	I	Use of Engineering Tools	D	Impact on Society and the Environment	
Problem Analysis	I	Individual and Teamwork		Ethics and Equity	
Investigation	I	Communication Skills		Economics and Project Management	
Design		Professionalism		Life-Long Learning	

Notation: *x* represents the content level code as defined by the CEAB. blank = not applicable; I = introduced (introductory); D = developed (intermediate) and A = applied (advanced).

**Topics and Specific Learning Objectives**

**1. General steps in the FEM**

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- a. Identify steps and associated errors common to any FEM project
- b. Verify and validate FEM results

**2. Direct stiffness method**

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- a. Formulate and solve FEM equations for assembly of spring, truss, and beam elements.
- b. Apply applicable FEM modeling techniques

**3. Applications of solid, shell beam and 2D elements**

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- a. Use commercial FEM program to select element as required by the analyzed geometry
- b. Define analysis type and implement correct modeling techniques.

**4. Types of analyses: static linear, static nonlinear, thermal stress, modal, linear buckling, thermal**

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- a. Select the correct type of analysis as required by the analyzed problem
- b. Interface between different types of analysis to solve multi-physics problems.

**5. Using a commercial FEM program to analyze design problems**

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- a. Implement FEM in a design process
- b. Use FEM as a design tool.

**Evaluation**

Course Component	Weight
Three homework assignments 5% each	15%
SOLIDWORKS test CSWA-S	15%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	50%

**Assignments:** Three individual assignments due on: 4<sup>th</sup> week, 6<sup>th</sup> week, 11<sup>th</sup> week. Assignments will be submitted on-line.

**Certification test:** On-line SOLIDWORKS Simulation certification test CSWA-S during the week of March 18, 2024.

**Laboratory:** Laboratories take place every week. students will work on assignment problems assisted by Teaching Assistants and/or by the Course Instructor.

**Tutorial:** as required, by appointment

**Midterm Examination:** Scheduled during the week of March 3, 2024; 2h, open book examination.

**Final Examination:** The final examination, 3h long, open book examination. It will take place during the regular examination period. To obtain a passing grade in the course, a mark of 50% or more must be achieved on the final examination. A final examination mark < 50% will result in a final course grade of 48% or less.

**Course policies:** If a student misses the midterm exam with consideration, the weight of the midterm exam will be applied to the final exam. If student misses the midterm exam without consideration, the midterm exam's mark will be zero.

If deadlines for assignments are not being met, two-day grace period will be allowed with 5% penalty per day. Delay of more than two days will result in mark zero, unless student has an academic consideration.

If cheating during the midterm or the final examination is suspected, the Associate Chair Undergrad will investigate and will determine an appropriate resolution. This may range from completing a one-on-one oral examination with the instructor, to receiving a grade of zero on the exam, to further academic penalties for scholastic offences applied by the Associate Dean Undergrad.

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 laboratory, assignment, or test marks from previous years. Previously completed assignments and laboratories cannot be resubmitted for grading by the student in subsequent years.

Students are required to contact the instructor of the course for any other circumstances that appear to not be covered by the non-exhaustive list above.

***ENGLISH:*** In accordance with Senate and Faculty Policy, students may be penalized 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 final examinations 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.

***ATTENDANCE:*** Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, 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 examination in the course.

***CHEATING:*** University policy states that cheating, including plagiarism is a scholastic offense. 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. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

***SSD:*** 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.

***NOTE:*** The above topics and outline are subject to adjustments and changes as needed. Students who have failed an Engineering course (ie.<50%) 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 for grading by the student in subsequent years.

### **STATEMENT ON GENDER-BASED AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

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](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

### **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.

#### **A. GENERAL REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES**

1. All first-year students will report to the Undergraduate Services Office by submitting the [Academic Consideration Request Form](#), for all instances.
2. If you are an upper year student and you are missing a test/assignment/lab or examination you will report the absence by submitting [Academic Consideration Request Form](#). Absences worth LESS THAN 10% of your mark, will be processed by your department office. If your course work is worth 10% OR MORE of your final grade, your request will be processed by the Undergraduate Services Office.
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**

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 and request relief through the [Academic Consideration Request Form](#). 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, your request for relief will be processed by your department office. If the test is worth MORE THAN 10% of your final grade your request for relief will be processed by the Undergraduate Services Office.
3. Be prepared to attach supporting documentation to the Department Chair and/or the Undergraduate Services Office through the online form (see next page for information on documentation).
4. Discuss with the instructor if and when the test can be rescheduled. The approval of the Chair or the Undergraduate Services Office is required when rescheduling midterm/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 report your absence using the [Academic Consideration Request Form](#) and 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 submit an "[Application for a Special Exam](#)" form. 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 submit the [Academic Consideration Request Form](#) and 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 2023 Western Academic Calendar available at [www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca).

### **Absences Due to Illness:**

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_135](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_135)

### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_10](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10)

### **Academic Accommodations for Religious or Holy Days:**

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_16](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_16)

### **Course Withdrawals:**

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=6&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_75](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=6&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_75)

### **Examinations:**

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=5&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>

### **Scheduling of Term Assignments:**

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_78](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_78)



**Scholastic Offences:**

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20)

**Student Medical Certificate:**

<https://www.eng.uwo.ca/files/undergraduate/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

**Engineering Academic Regulations:**

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=4&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_86](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=4&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_86)

**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”)	Sep 15, 2023
Full courses and full-year half course (i.e. “E”, “Y” or no suffix)	Sep 15, 2023
Second term half course (i.e. “B” or “G”)	Jan 16, 2024

**Drop Deadlines:**

First term half course without penalty (i.e. “A” or “F”)	Nov 13, 2023
Full courses and full-year half courses without penalty (i.e. “E”, “Y” or no suffix)	Nov 30, 2023
Second term half or second term full course without penalty (i.e. “B” or “G”)	March 7, 2024

**Contact Information:**

## Undergraduate Services Office:

SEB 2097	Phone: 519-661-2130	E-mail: <a href="mailto:engugrad@uwo.ca">engugrad@uwo.ca</a>
Chemical & Green Process Engineering:		
TEB 477	Phone: 519-661-2131	E-mail: <a href="mailto:cbeugrad@uwo.ca">cbeugrad@uwo.ca</a>
Civil Engineering:		
SEB 3005	Phone: 519-661-2139	E-mail: <a href="mailto:civil@uwo.ca">civil@uwo.ca</a>
Computer, Electrical, Mechatronic Systems & Software Engineering		
TEB 279	Phone: 519-661-3758	E-mail: <a href="mailto:eceugrad@uwo.ca">eceugrad@uwo.ca</a>
Integrated Engineering		
ACEB 2410	Phone: 519-661-6725	E-mail: <a href="mailto:engceli@uwo.ca">engceli@uwo.ca</a>
Mechanical Engineering:		
SEB 3002	Phone: 519-661-4122	E-mail: <a href="mailto:mmeundergraduate@uwo.ca">mmeundergraduate@uwo.ca</a>

October 26<sup>th</sup> 2023