

Western University
Department of Mechanical & Materials Engineering

MME 4429a - Nuclear Engineering

COURSE OUTLINE – 2023

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:	To present an overview of nuclear engineering beginning with the fundamentals of nuclear physics and extending to the operation of nuclear reactors with special emphasis on the CANDU nuclear reactor.	
COURSE INFORMATION:	Instructor:	Dr. Hamid Abdolvand Room CMLP 1308 Email: hamid.abdolvand@uwo.ca
	Lectures:	See Draft My Schedule
	Tutorials:	
CONSULTATION HOURS:	Wednesday, 14.30-15:30 (by appointment, please email in advance)	
PREREQUISITES:	Completion of third year of the Mechanical Engineering program	
ACCREDITATION UNITS:	Engineering Science = 100%	
TOPICS:	Energy systems and climate change. The structure of atoms, excited atomic states and radiation. Interaction of radiation with matter. Methods of controlling a nuclear fission reaction. Types of fission reactors. CANDU reactors. The next generation nuclear reactor designs. Small modular reactors The operation of fusion reactors Radiation protection. Current and future state of nuclear energy in Canada and worldwide.	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:	Students will become familiar with the basic theories behind atomic fission and the interaction of radiation with matter such that they will understand the conditions that must be met to achieve controlled nuclear criticality. The students will learn the basic operation of, and differences between, various types of nuclear fission reactors with special emphasis directed to the CANDU reactor technology. The students will learn the basic principles, standards, and practices associated with radiation protection. Finally, the students will learn, largely through discussion, the pros- and cons- of nuclear energy as a power alternative for fossil fuel. This course consists of 3 lectures hours per week where course information is presented and 2 tutorial hours per week where examples will be solved. Additional presentations will be made on peripheral topics related to Nuclear Engineering such as the history of nuclear physics, political/public involvement in the nuclear industry, specific examples of unique nuclear facilities. Students will participate in discussions stemming from this material. Student attendance and participation in these tutorial discussions will constitute 20% of their mark for this course.	
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	Graduates from this course will be able to calculate the following: - The energy available from simple fission/fusion reactions.	

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- The potential energy and the energy release rate of a radioactive decay process involving either a simple decay or an isotope production/decay process.
 - The intensity, and energy, of an irradiation beam after passing through a solid of given thickness.
 - The neutron flux profile and the conditions for nuclear criticality using a “one-group” approach for monolithic bare fast reactors of infinite planar, spherical, or cylindrical geometry.
 - Calculate the Roentgen Equivalent Man (REM) dosage resulting from external exposure to electromagnetic or particle irradiation, of various energy and duration, from point, line, ring, or disc source geometries with and without radiation shielding.

Graduates from this course will be able to identify the:

- Key components in the common types of fast neutron and thermal neutron fission reactors and to describe how these components are used to establish safe control of the fission reaction process.
- Specific components of CANDU reactor cores and the role these components play in controlling the operation of this type of reactor.

CONTACT HOURS: 3 lecture hours, 2 laboratory/tutorial hours, half course

REFERENCES: “Introduction to Nuclear Engineering” 4/e, John R. Lamarsch and Anthony J. Baratta. Prentice Hall, ISBN 0134570057

“Nuclear Engineering: An Introduction to the Concepts, Systems, and Applications of Nuclear Processes” 6/e, Raymond L. Murray. Elsevier Press, 2008, ISBN-10: 0-12-370547-9, ISBN-13: 978-012-370547-1

UNITS: S.I.

EXAMINATIONS AND QUIZZES: Two 1½ hour, term tests to be held during tutorials (Oct 16) or lecture hours (Nov 16).
3 hour final examination.

EVALUATION:

Two Term Tests	30% (Oct 16, Nov 15)
Participation in tutorials	20% (8% attendance and 12% project)
Final exam	50%

COURSE POLICIES: The following course specific policies will be enforced throughout the course:

Tutorials:

Failure to attend more than 40% of the tutorials will translate into a zero mark for attendance.

Missing a tutorial without academic consideration will translate into a zero mark for that tutorial.

Students who arrive 30 min after the scheduled tutorial will not get any attendance credit for that tutorial.

Project:

If a minimum of 50% is not obtained, everyone in the project team will get a zero for the project mark.

Midterm and Final exams:

If a mark of less than 50% is obtained on the final examination, the student cannot receive a final mark greater than 48%.

Only non-programmable calculators will be allowed during all exams.

No make-up term-test options will be offered regardless of the circumstances for which the midterm was missed.

Missing any of the term-test exams with academic consideration will automatically shift the weight of the missed midterm exam into the final exam.

Missing either (or any) of the term tests without academic consideration will be reported to the Dean and the student will be debarred from taking the final exam.

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. (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

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.

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 2021 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 16, 2021		
2021	Full courses and full-year half course (i.e. “E”, “Y” or no suffix)	September 16,
2022	Second term half course (i.e. “B” or “G”)	January 11,

Drop Deadlines:

	First term half course (i.e. “A” or “F”)	
November 12, 2021		
2021	Full courses and full-year half courses (i.e. “E”, “Y” or no suffix)	November 30,
7, 2022	Second term half or second term full course (i.e. “B” or “G”)	March

Contact Information:

Undergraduate Services Office
 Chemical & Green Process Engineering
 Civil Engineering:
 Computer, Electrical, Mechatronic Systems & Software Engineering
 Integrated Engineering
 Mechanical Engineering
mmeundergraduate@uwo.ca

SEB 2097 Phone: 519-661-2130
 TEB 477 Phone: 519-661-2131
 SEB 3005 Phone: 519-661-2139
 TEB 279 Phone: 519-661-3758
 ACEB 2410 Phone: 519-661-6725
 SEB 3002 Phone: 519-661-4122

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