

The University of Texas at El Paso
AERO 2131: Aerospace Materials Lab
Spring 2024

Instructor:	Office Hours:
Alejandra G. Castellanos, Ph.D. Department of Mechanical Engineering A116 Engr. Building castellanosa@utep.edu	Monday 2:00-3:00 pm and Wednesday 10:30-11:30 am or by appointment in A116 Engr. Building
TAs:	Office Hours:
Ramon J. Gamez Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engr. rjgamez2@miners.utep.edu	Tuesday and Thursday: 11:00-12:00 pm @ ACES (Classroom Bldg. Basement Floor)
Sarahi Mendivil Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engr. smendivil2@miners.utep.edu	Monday and Tuesday: 11:00-12:00 pm @ ACES (Classroom Bldg. Basement Floor)

Class meeting time and location: F 2:00 – 4:50 pm College of Business Admin. Bldg. 302 and E-102B Engr. Building

Prerequisites: CHEM 1305: General Chemistry and CHEM 1105: Laboratory for CHEM 1305

Course overview: This course will provide students with hands-on experience dealing with practical issues in engineering experiments. The main objective is to give students some exposure and reinforcement to several concepts of strength of materials. The students will be able to relate the microstructure of a material to its properties, and understand the effects of the environment on materials and the possible failure modes of structures. The students will be provided with demonstrations of various processes in the laboratory. In this lab students should leave with the ability to:

- a. Take the basic measurements of well-known phenomenon
- b. Analyze data, taking into account various sources of error and uncertainty in the setup
- c. manufacturing testing and characterization of composite materials

Software:

- (Required) Fusion 360: This will be installed in the first day of classes. Please follow the instructions to download the software: <https://www.utep.edu/engineering/etc/software/>
- (Required) Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word.

If you have any issues with any of the software installation, please contact the Engineering Technology Center (ETC): etchelpdesk@utep.edu

Other course materials:

- Labs posted in Blackboard.

Course home Page: The “Course Home Page” has been created on Blackboard. Make sure you have access to this site; it will be used to distribute Labs, assignments, and grades. The email distribution list for the class will be used for announcements and reminders. **Check your email account on a regular basis.**

Grading:

Worksheet (3)	15%
Report (6)	60%
Final Project	25%
Total	100%

Grading will be conducted on an absolute scale. Under this system it is possible for the entire class to get an A or the entire class to get an F depending on the ability and performance of the individuals in the class. It is also easy for you to evaluate how you are doing in the class during the semester. The following criteria will be used to assign a grade for the course:

$100 \geq \mathbf{A} \geq 91$
$90.9 \geq \mathbf{B} \geq 81$
$80.9 \geq \mathbf{C} \geq 71$
$70.9 \geq \mathbf{D} \geq 61$
$60.9 > \mathbf{F}$

Technology Requirements:

Course content is delivered via **Blackboard** learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance.

Worksheets:

Answer all the information from the worksheet and submit it as a PDF file. **Each person must submit their worksheet individually.**

Reports:

Instructions will be provided in class for each of the projects that will be assigned during the semester. Students will work in groups of **three people**. The report produced must be a collaborative effort with every individual listed as an author contributing to writing some part of the report and understanding ALL the report. The report should be uploaded ONCE to Blackboard with all contributing authors listed on the first page of the report.

IMPORTANT: If one of the team members is not contributing to the lab, notify the TAs ASAP through an email and list the names of ONLY the contributing Authors in the report.

When? Due at the beginning of each class (see schedule at the end of the syllabus for dates)

Where? You will submit it through Blackboard (BB) as a pdf. Failure to submit your report as a pdf will result in a zero grade. If your file is corrupted or I cannot open it, you will receive a zero grade. Before submitting your report make sure it is a readable file.

Your goal in writing is to convey your results and understanding of the topic thoroughly and concisely. Reports must be **no less than 1.5 or more than 2 pages**, including figures, tables, and references. Figures and tables must be numbered and captioned and referred to in the text of the report. Any references utilized must be cited in either a footnote or endnote. **IMPORTANT: Failure to submit at least 1.5 pages or less than 800 words will result in a zero for the assignment.**

Report must include:

- Title

- **Contributing Authors:** If one of the team members is not contributing to the lab, notify the TAs ASAP through an email and list the names of **ONLY** the contributing Authors in the report.
- **Abstract:** The formula for an abstract is as follows:
 - Begin with 1-2 sentences motivating the work. These sentences answer the question of why the “general topic” is interesting.
 - State a key unknown question in the field (1 sentence). This focuses your abstract onto a specific topic. (Note: The unknown question is what your explanation will address.)
 - Explain the methods you used to address this question. State results and conclusions. (3-5 sentences)

The hardest part of writing the abstract will be identifying the key question. This is also the most important part of the abstract, because it tells the reader what they will learn from reading your manuscript.

- **Methods**
 - List materials used
 - Describe step-by-step procedures
 - Provide drawings or images of the experimental setup
- **Results**
 - Include all relevant data/observations (inclusion of images may be helpful)
 - Include an analysis of the results (often a graph or table will assist). If a table is used make sure to include the standard deviation. Use no more than 4 significant figures in your results.
 - Discuss sources of error in the experiment/measurements if any
- **Discussion and Conclusions**
 - Describe the topic investigated
 - Provide explanations for your results.

Late reports are NOT accepted and will result in a zero grade. No exceptions!

If you fail to show up to the lab, you will receive a 0 for that report. During the lab, each of you will need to get your own data. The TA will not test your samples and then send the data to you, you need to perform your own experiments.

Final Project

You will manufacture a composite material part. You will need to submit a final report and a composite part due during finals week. The instructions for the final project will be given in class.

Email Policy:

The best communication method is through UTEP email, office hours and during class. I will reply to general questions or concerns within 1 to 2 business days, Monday through Friday, during business hours (8:00AM-5:00 PM). Emails received after 5:00 PM, may not be responded to until the next business day.

- If the answer is in the syllabus, I will not reply unless the question is about clarifying information.
- I do not answer emails during the weekend.
- I do not explain complete lectures or solved problems through email. If you need clarification on one of the topics, attend my office hours. If you cannot make it, please schedule an appointment. The meetings will be scheduled several days after your initial email due to my busy schedule. Office hours are not a substitute for the class.

If we (student and professor) agree on a make-up exam/assignment due to an excused absence, you MUST have an email from me agreeing to that make-up exam/assignment. Otherwise, no make-up exam/assignment will be administered, and its grade will be zero (0).

Bottom line: Ask questions in class and during office hours.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course (Homework, Projects, Exams and Final Project) and class participation. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Reports
- Worksheets
- Final Project

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

Attendance is mandatory. Anyone with 3 or more absences (missing assignments) will be dropped from the class. A drop for not attending will count toward the State Allowed Six Drop Limit. If you are failing the class at the time of the drop you may also be given a WF designation. Be advised that a drop could adversely impact visa status, financial aid and other programs. Students must arrive to class on time. If you will not be able to make it to the class session, contact the instructor in advance via email.

As per UTEP rules, you may be asked to show a UTEP ID at any time during class. Anyone who is present and/or registered in the class will be subjected to disciplinary action unless the instructor gives prior approval.

Excused Absence:

The UTEP catalog allows Absences to be excused ONLY for University-Recognized Activities or other specific situations listed in the Academic Catalog. You must notify the instructor with at least **10 days prior to the absence**. If a student does not take the test and does not have an excused absent by the instructor based on the guidelines of the university catalog, the test will be graded as zero (0). No exceptions! There will be no makeup exams administered, unless it is an excused absence approved by the UTEP Graduate Catalog. Please observe the university's academic regulations outlined in the UTEP Graduate Catalog (<http://catalog.utep.edu/policies-regulations/attendance-grading/>).

Students with special needs:

Students with disabilities or special need, including both permanent disabilities (including learning disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorder, visual, mobility and hearing impairments, psychological disabilities, and chronic systemic disorders) as well as some temporary medical conditions (e.g. broken arm), are encouraged to see the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) located at Union East Room 106 or contact them at (915) 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu.

Departmental Policy

Academic Honesty:

- During exams and quizzes, you are not allowed to use any form of wifi enabled electronic device, including cell phones or other electronic communication devices or methods (wrist watches, earbuds, etc.). No wrist watch or other electronic device may be worn. Calculators and watches may be subject to inspection. You may be asked to temporarily remove glasses to allow for their inspection.
- **You must show your work for all problems.** You must use the paper provided by the instructor. **If no work is shown you may not receive credit.** After the exam, the instructor may require you to explain how you solved a problem on the exam. If you refuse to or cannot explain your work you may be subject to disciplinary action.
- No electronic version of the book, loose paper print-outs of the book or extra sheets of paper of any kind are allowed unless explicitly mentioned in writing by the instructor. As a part of the zero-tolerance policy, if you have a cellphone or other electronic device capable of communication on your person; or if any proctor sees or hears any electronic device during the exam or if you share your work with someone else, you will be reported to the proper authorities and you may receive a zero on the exam or an F in the class. Other actions including suspension may also be pursued.

- University approved recording devices may be located at various locations in the room and may be out of sight of the students. These recordings will be managed according to the UTEP approved regulations for such media. The instructor may create a record of your activity during the exam and may take photographs of your work during the exam.
- If you arrive more than 15 minutes late to an exam, you will not be allowed to take the examination.
- There will be no makeup exams administered. If you have a university approved excuse, your instructor will have a process for determining how to handle the missing grade outlined in the syllabus. However, no makeup exams will be given.
- If you miss more than one exam, the instructor may choose to administratively drop you from the class. This may adversely impact a visa and financial aid.
- All students must present their UTEP issued ID prior to and during every exam and may be required to sign in. Not having a UTEP issued ID when asked will result in forfeiture of the exam. No other IDs will be accepted.
- **Scholastic dishonesty on homework, lab assignments and all other class assignments will be held to the same standards and requirements of academic honesty as quizzes and exams.**
- **Use of 3rd party websites for answers (Chegg.com, CourseHero, SparkNotes, Quizlet, etc.) is considered academic dishonesty.**
- **If you are suspected of scholastic dishonesty you may or may not be directly confronted about your conduct by the instructor or proctor. You will however, be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) and your exam may not be admissible. Your grade in the class may not be available until OSCCR makes a final ruling, this may adversely impact your ability to enroll in other classes.**

Harassment policy:

The department has a zero-tolerance policy harassment. Engagement in any behavior considered harassment would be reported to the proper authorities. In addition to generally understood forms of harassment, the department also treats the following behavior as harassment:

- Repeated emails and/or calls regarding subjects that have already been addressed. Once a decision has been made, or a question answered, a student who continues to ask the same question will be given a warning by the recipient of the email/call. If the student continues, the behavior will be reported. Questions that seek understanding of course material are not harassment, but repeated questions about a grade or administrative decisions are.
- Grades are not negotiable, ever. If you believe a grading mistake has been made, you must follow the process described in the UTEP catalog. Any request for a grade elevation that is NOT based on mistake is considered harassment and will be reported immediately.
- Remaining in an office after the occupant requests you to leave is considered harassment and potentially threatening. You will be reported immediately without warning and depending on the severity, may be reported to law enforcement.
- Similar behavior towards department staff and student advisors will also be treated as harassment, including persistent phone calls, emails and badgering. Department staff and student advisors are there to help students and should be treated with due respect.

AERO 2131 Schedule

The approximate schedule is below. Slight changes may occur as needed.

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment	Meeting Location
1	1/19	Course overview	Read the syllabus; install Fusion 360 and Excel in class	College of Business Admin 302
2	1/26	Introduction to Measurements & Error		College of Business Admin 302
3	2/2	Excel functions used in Materials Science	Worksheet #1 due at the beginning of class	College of Business Admin 302
4	2/9	Engr matls and prop: Tension	Worksheet #2 due at the beginning of class	1/2 class will meet at E-102B Engr. Bldg (Lockheed Martin Lab). 1/2 class will meet at the College of Business Admin 302 (see BB for schedule).
5	2/16	Engr matls and prop: Tension (Metals, polymers and plastic)	Report #1 due at the beginning of class	1/2 class will meet at E-102B Engr. Bldg (Lockheed Martin Lab). 1/2 class will meet at the College of Business Admin 302 (see BB for schedule).
6	2/23	Engr matls and prop: Flexural	Report #2 due at the beginning of class	1/2 class will meet at E-102B Engr. Bldg (Lockheed Martin Lab). 1/2 class will meet at the College of Business Admin 302 (see BB for schedule).
7	3/1	Engr matls and prop: Fracture and Fatigue	Report #3 due at the beginning of class	1/2 class will meet at E-102B Engr. Bldg (Lockheed Martin Lab). 1/2 class will meet at the College of Business Admin 302 (see BB for schedule).
8	3/8	Topology Optimization	Report #4 due at the beginning of class	College of Business Admin 302
9	3/15	SPRING BREAK - No Lab	No Lab	No Lab
10	3/22	Topology Optimization		College of Business Admin 302 (Only if you have not finished the lab on 3/8)
11	3/29	Cesar Chavez Holiday - No Lab	No Lab	No Lab
12	4/5	Surface Tension, Free Energy and Wettability	Report #5 due at the beginning of class	College of Business Admin 302
13	4/12	Composite Materials Introduction	Report #6 due at the beginning of class	No in-person lab. You will need to watch a video posted in BB and answer some questions.
14	4/19	Composite Materials Manufacturing	Worksheet #3 due at the beginning of class	College of Business Admin 302
15	4/26	Composite Materials Manufacturing		College of Business Admin 302
16	5/3	Dead day - No Classes	No Lab	No Lab
		FINAL Report: Monday, May 6th @ 3:45 pm (according to UTEP Scheduling Office): https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/scheduling/final-exam-schedule-spring-2024.pdf		