

Individual Study of Environmental Engineering Fundamentals

Civil Engineering 5391
The University of Texas at El Paso



Course Information

CE 5391: Individual Study

CRN: 25934

Term: Spring 2025

Delivery Method: In-person

Meeting Day and Time: M, W, F (10:30-11:20 AM)

Location: Education Building, Room 303

Instructor Information

Professor Lauren Kennedy

Written communication: lkennedy@utep.edu

Study session: TBD will vote in class

Table of Contents

Course Description.....	3
Learning Objectives.....	3
Required Materials.....	3
Assignments and Grading.....	4
Team Questions.....	4
Technology Requirements.....	5
Course Communication.....	5
Expectations.....	6
Illness Precautions.....	6
Course Drop Policy.....	6
Makeup Exam and Late Work Policy.....	6
Alternative Means of Submitting Work in Case of Technical Issues.....	7
Incomplete Grade Policy.....	7
Accommodations Policy.....	7
Scholastic Integrity.....	8
Guidance on Artificial Intelligence.....	8
Plagiarism Detecting Software.....	8
Copyright.....	9
Preferred Name & Pronoun.....	9
Resources.....	9
Schedule.....	10
Disclaimer.....	12

Course Description

CE 2385 introduces the scientific knowledge applied to minimize environmental contaminants and their adverse impacts. Contaminants that impact environmental resources and human health are commonly controlled by applying fundamental concepts, for example from chemistry and fluid mechanics. In this course, students will learn how fundamental concepts can be applied to remove, transport, and/or transform contaminants in engineered and natural systems. This course introduces the principles of water quality engineering, air quality engineering, and hazardous waste management.

Prerequisites: (1) CE 2375: Intro to Fluid Mechanics. (2) CHEM 1305: General Chemistry

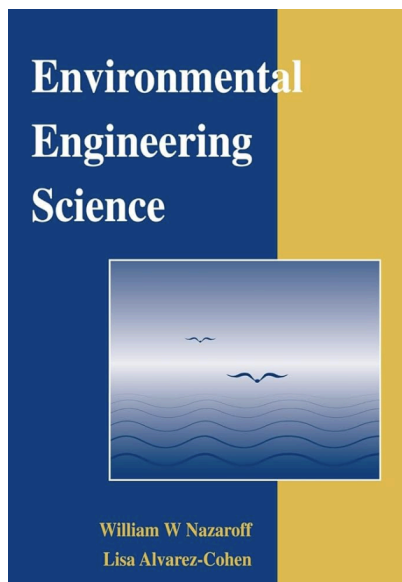
Learning Objectives

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Describe the role of environmental engineers in society
2. Explain the basic properties of water and air as well as sources of and properties of key contaminants
3. Model transformation and transportation processes of contaminants in engineered and natural systems
4. Determine the function of unit processes in water, air, and hazardous waste treatment

Required Materials

Note that the material covered in class will complement rather than duplicate what is covered in the text. The reading schedule can be found in the schedule section of the syllabus. It is important to do the assigned reading and to attend class. Additional assigned readings will be available via PDF in Blackboard.



Nazaroff, W. W. and Alvarez-Cohen, L. (2000). *Environmental Engineering Science*. Wiley, ISBN: 0-471-14494-0 *

*Note that any version of this textbook will provide the information needed

Assignments and Grading

There will be 9 assignments during the semester, a project, quizzes, two midterm examinations, and a cumulative final examination. Of assignments 1-9, one assignment grade with the lowest score will be discarded. Similarly, two of the quiz grades with the lowest scores will be dropped. **The project-related submissions are required to be completed to pass the course.** In addition, a final report will be required at the end of the course (due May 2, 2025). You must show your work on assignments, quizzes, and exams to receive full credit.

Final grades will be weighted as follows:

- Project 5%
- Quizzes 5%
- Final Report 10%
- Assignments 20%
- Exam #1 15%
- Exam #2 15%
- Final Exam 30%

Grade Distribution:

- 100-90 = A
- 89.9-80 = B
- 79.9-70 = C
- 69.9-60 = D
- 59.9 and Below = F

You will use gradescope to submit all assignments. You will use blackboard to submit the project-related submissions. You will email to me your final Report. Due dates are available in the schedule section of the syllabus. Exams and Quizzes will be in person and closed book. Midterm exams will occur during class time (see the schedule section of the syllabus). Quizzes will occur during class time and will **not** be announced in advance.

There will also be one optional extra credit assignment worth up to 15 points added onto your final grade that you will be able to submit via blackboard. **I do not offer additional extra-credit assignments or roundup grades.**

Unless otherwise noted, in-text citations are required for all essay work submitted as part of this course (including through the project-related submissions and the extra credit assignment). If In-text citations are missing from the essay, the essay will receive 0 points. For help with in-text citations, check out the [Zotero Beginner's guide](#).

Team Questions

Students will be divided into teams and will compete during the semester to win prizes at the end of the semester. These questions will be clearly marked as "Team Questions" in gradescope. **The Team "Points" earned by your team when answering these questions**

will not count towards your grade. However, it is essential for your success in this class that you complete these questions and understand them. At least one person on your team must have gradescope available each class period via the phone application or a personal computer in order to submit the team's answer to the Team Questions.

Technology Requirements

Some course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. In addition, some course content may be delivered via the Internet through Teams for class lectures and some scheduled office hours. 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, a phone camera/webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat Reader. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, Teams, and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

In-text citations are required for all essay work submitted as part of this course. If In-text citations are missing from the essay, the essay will receive 0 points. For help with in-text citations, check out the [Zotero Beginner's guide](#).

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. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!**

Course Communication

- **Study sessions:** I will have an optional weekly study session, and the date/time will be determined at the start of the semester. The study session will not occur on university holidays.
- **Email:** UTEP email is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your email within 24-48 hours of receipt. When emailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student email account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your email, clearly state your question or appointment request. If you are requesting an appointment, include your availability.
- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages

Expectations

Your participation in the course lectures is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Please keep these etiquette guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Check blackboard and your email at least once each business day and aim to respond to direct email or messages in blackboard within 24-48 hours of receipt (as I will also aim to do -- see "Course Communication")
- Come to class on time. If you are late, please quietly come into class at the back of the room. Quizzes will occur during class time, will **not** be announced in advance, and will .
- Turn off phones or place into silent mode. Do not text during class.
- Do not chat with your neighbors during class, except during organized discussions.
- Feel free to use a computer to take notes but do not 'surf' the web - this can be very distracting for other students.
- Respect the instructor and other students during class or on Blackboard
 - Always consider audience. All communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
 - Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
 - When reacting to someone else's comments or responses to questions, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
 - Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. **Do not copy documents on Blackboard and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.**

Illness Precautions

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible via email, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations.

Course Drop Policy

If you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

Makeup Exam and Late Work Policy

Makeup Quiz Policy: No makeup quizzes will be administered. Exceptions to this policy may be made in the case of an official accommodation from CASS. **Unexcused** missed quizzes will receive a 0.

Makeup Exam Policy: With prior consent and in cases of documented emergencies that occur within two days of the exam, makeup exams may be administered up to 1 week after the date of the official exam. Requests are to be made IN WRITING (e.g., email) prior to the official exam date or you will forfeit your opportunity to take the makeup exam. In addition, exceptions to this policy may be made in the case of an official accommodation from CASS. **Unexcused** missed exams will receive a 0.

Late Assignment Submission Policy: With prior consent and in cases of documented emergencies that occur within two days of the assignment, late work may be submitted up to 1 week after the submission time. Requests for late submissions must also be made IN WRITING (e.g., email) prior to the due date. In addition, exceptions to this policy may be made in the case of an official accommodation from CASS. **Unexcused** late submissions will receive a 0.

Alternative Means of Submitting Work in Case of Technical Issues

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. **Once you have uploaded an assignment to blackboard, check that the document properly uploaded and that you can view it in the system or download it from Blackboard and open the downloaded file without corruption.** I also suggest you save all of your typed work in a separate Word document as a backup before the assignment deadline. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your backup document as a last resort.

Incomplete Grade Policy

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

Accommodations Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal. **Please submit the subsequent paperwork to the instructor right away.**

Scholastic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Students should practice academic integrity in all of its forms, including abstaining from plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. **I have a ZERO tolerance policy for academic dishonesty.** If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing, you will receive a 0 on the assignment/exam and the incident will be reported to the OSCCR.

Guidance on Artificial Intelligence

Some AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, can be beneficial during the early brainstorming stages of an activity, and you are welcome to explore them for that purpose. However, keep in mind that AI-generated ideas are not your own and may hinder your ability to think critically and creatively about a problem. It is also important to remember that these technologies often “hallucinate” or produce materials and information that are inaccurate or incomplete—even providing false citations for use.

That said, you are not allowed to submit any AI-generated work in this course as your own. If you use any information or materials created by AI technology, you are required to cite it like you would any other source, and explain how it was used (e.g., “ChatGPT was used to check my grammar on this response”). Consider how this will affect your credibility as a writer and scholar before doing so. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

You are not allowed to use any AI in the generation of your final report.

In-text citations are required for all essay work submitted as part of this course. If in-text citations are missing from the essay, the essay will receive 0 points. For help with in-text citations, check out the [Zotero Beginner's guide](#).

Plagiarism Detecting Software

Some of your course work and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

Copyright

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

Preferred Name & Pronoun

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct the instructor on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly in class or via email (lickennedy@utep.edu).

[Texas Senate Bill 17](#), the recent law that outlaws diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at public colleges and universities in Texas, does not in any way affect content, instruction or discussion in a course at public colleges and universities in Texas. Expectations and academic freedom for teaching and class discussion have not been altered post-SB 17, and students should not feel the need to censor their speech pertaining to topics including race and racism, structural inequality, LGBTQ+ issues, or diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the [QR code](#) below for a listing of campus resources -- where you can go for assistance.



Schedule

Date	Week day	Topic	Reading	Homework Out	Homework Due	Other
1/20/25	M	No class or office hours: Martin Luther King Jr. Day				
1/22/25	W	A01. Course Introduction	Chapter 1			
1/24/25	F	A02. Key concepts review		1		
1/27/25	M	A03. Properties of air, water, and contaminants	Chapter 2			
1/29/25	W	A04. Properties of air, water, and contaminants				
1/31/25	F	A05. Properties of air, water, and contaminants		2	1	
2/3/25	M	A06. Transformation processes	Chapter 3			
2/5/25	W	A07. Transformation processes				
2/7/25	F	A08. Transformation processes		3	2	
2/10/25	M	A09. Transformation processes				
2/12/25	W	A10. Transformation processes				
2/14/25	F	A11. Transformation processes		4	3	
2/17/25	M	A12. Transformation processes				
2/19/25	W	B01. Transport (not on exam 1)	Chapter 4 A & B			
2/21/25	F	B02. Transport (not on exam 1)		5	4	
2/24/25	M	Flex				
2/26/25	W	In-Class Mid-term Exam 1				
2/28/25	F	B03. Transport	Chapter 4D			
3/3/25	M	B04. Hazardous waste management	Chapter 8 A, B, & D			
3/5/25	W	B05. Hazardous waste				

		management				
3/7/25	F	Project work day		6	5	
3/10/25	M	No class or study session: Spring Break				
3/12/25	W	No class or study session: Spring Break				
3/14/25	F	No class or study session: Spring Break				
3/17/25	M	B06. Reactor models	Chapter 5 A			
3/19/25	W	B07. Reactor models				
3/21/25	F	B08. Reactor models				Project Submission 1
3/24/25	M	C01. Water quality engineering (not on exam 2)	Chapter 6			
3/26/25	W	C02. Water quality engineering (not on exam 2)				
3/28/25	F	No class or study session: Cesar Chavez Holiday				
3/31/25	M	C03. Water quality engineering (not on exam 2)	Chapter 6			
4/2/25	W	Flex				
4/4/25	F	Project work day		6	7	
4/7/25	M	In-Class Mid-term Exam 2				
4/9/25	W	C04. Water quality engineering	Chapter 6			
4/11/25	F	C05. Water quality engineering				Project Submission 2
4/14/25	M	C06. Water quality engineering				
4/16/25	W	C07. Water quality engineering				
4/18/25	F	C08. Water quality engineering		7	8	
4/21/25	M	C09. Water quality engineering				
4/23/25	W	C10. Water quality				

		engineering				
4/25/25	F	C11. Air quality engineering	Chapter 7 A, B, & C			Project Submission 3
4/28/25	M	C12. Air quality engineering				
4/30/25	W	C13. Air quality engineering				
5/2/25	F	C14. Air quality engineering		8	9	Final report
5/5/25	M	C15. Air quality engineering				
5/7/25	W	Flex				
5/9/25	F	No class or study session: Dead Day			9	
5/16/25	F	Final Exam	10AM- 12:30 PM			

Disclaimer

This syllabus may be subject to modification. The instructor will inform students of any changes.