

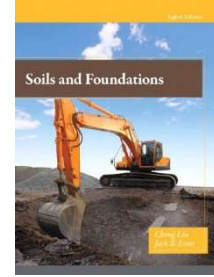
**CE 4339 – Geostructural Design**

**Instructors:** Soheil Nazarian  
 Mohammad Rashidi

**Class Time:** TR 9:00 -10:20 Liberal Arts Building 222

**Office Hours:** Students are always welcome.

**Textbook:** Soils and Foundations, 8th Edition, by Liu and Evett, Pearson



**Introduction** This course is concerned with Geostructural Design. The term “Geostructural Design” is used to describe the design of foundations for buildings and other structures, such as retaining walls. It also includes the design of natural slopes and pavement design. Geostructural Design must be based on, and make use of, the principles of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. However, it also requires knowledge of geology and involves numerous considerations that might be called “practical.” We will spend a significant part of our time on the mechanistic types of problems. We will spend time to discuss practical types of problems because they are the main problems of interest in engineering practice.

Most of the students interested in Geostructural Design are also interested in structural design. Structural designers generally have well-developed codes which they are expected to follow. No comparable codes exist in Geostructural Design. In structures, the properties of materials are reasonably well defined because they are manufactured. In Geostructural Design, a major problem exists with trying to define the properties of the soil materials at a site. Structural members are relatively simple in shape. Strata of soil are often discontinuous, and the success of a “design” may hinge on whether a soil exploration program results in the discovery of critical strata. For the range of stresses usually used, structural materials are subject to small strains, and may often be taken as linearly elastic. Soils are often stressed to large strains and are almost always inelastic and have nonlinear stress-strain curves. Even if you choose not to engage in the practice of Geostructural Design, there is a high probability that you will work with geotechnical engineers or read their reports in your work. Therefore, an understanding of how they work and think can be very beneficial. This course is a mixture of theory and practice and is intended to help you make an easier transition from university classes to engineering practice.

**Topics covered** primarily include:

1. Calculating stability and design of retaining walls
2. Foundation design and bearing capacity for shallow and deep foundations
3. Consolidation and differential settlement of Foundations
4. Slope stability analysis of fills, embankments, cuts, dams
5. Pavement system design

Assuming that you already learned them in the Geotechnical Engineering course, we will also review the following items:

1. Geology
2. Index properties and soil classifications
3. Phase relations (air-water-solid)
4. Laboratory and field tests
5. Effective stress (buoyancy)
6. Shear strength

- Schedule** A tentative lecture schedule is attached, and the reading assignments are indicated. *You must read the appropriate sections for each topic before the lecture.* For each topic, I will provide a broad lecture on the subject while I will ask questions from you as we progress.
- Grading** Handing in homework problems on time and class participation will count a maximum of 20% toward your grade. Quizzes will count as 50% of your grade. A comprehensive final examination will count as 30%.
- Homework** All homework problems are assigned for the semester below. Homework is assigned to help you learn the material, not to generate grades. It is acceptable to work with others when discussing methods of attack, but your written work should always be your own.
- The homework problems will be collected but not graded. The solutions are posted and are accessible between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM except weekends. You can view the solutions by providing your I.D. ***But you will not be able to check them out to copy in any form or shape (including using your cell phone camera). You will lose this privilege if you do not follow these rules.***
- Unless otherwise noted, homework problems are due at 5:00 PM on Friday the following week. Therefore, you will always have a weekend to work on your problems. Late homework is not accepted.
- Experience clearly shows that a student's grade is strongly dependent on the effort that is put into working and understanding the homework. Although the homework does not directly count towards your grade, in practice it is the most important factor that will affect your grade. Homework solutions will be available on due dates. We encourage that you team up with your other classmates for this activity.
- Quizzes** There will be a 20 minute or longer quiz almost every class. The problems will be similar to the end of the homework problems or the examples in the textbook. ***Students who miss quizzes will receive grades of zero.*** Knowing that emergencies happen, I will drop the lowest two quiz grades.
- Examination** Final examination, which is comprehensive, will last 3 hours.
- Neatness** You will present homework problems completed in a neat and orderly fashion. On your quizzes and examination, your work must be easy to follow. However, if you use a calculator and put nothing down on a page but an equation and the answer, you will get no credit. Calculations spread all over an examination page, with an answer suddenly appearing out of nowhere, will also be graded down.
- Attendance** Students are expected to attend all class periods. Those who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty and, with the approval of the Dean of the College of Engineering, may be dropped from the course with a grade of F for repeated (5 or more) unexcused absences.
- Cell Phones** It is a very good manner to turn off your cell phones during the class lectures. However, please make sure that you do not have a cell phone or any other electronic item with you during the exam and quizzes.
- Policy on Cheating** Students are expected to be above reproach in all scholastic activities. Students who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the university. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student, or the attempt to commit such acts (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI,

Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22). Scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the university. Policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

**Final Comment** Good luck to all of you in this course. Please do not hesitate to ask questions in class, or, if necessary, to see me outside of class. Any specific comments that students may have on how the course might be improved are particularly welcome.

### Lecture Topics

#### Lecture Topic 1. Soil Exploration (HW: 3-1 through 3-5)

- 3-1 Introduction
- 3-2 Reconnaissance
- 3-3 Steps of Soil Exploration
  - Boring
  - Sampling
  - Testing
- 3-4 Groundwater Table
- 3-5 Standard Penetration Test (ASTM D 1586)
- 3-6 Cone Penetration Test (ASTM D3441 AND D 5778)
- 3-7 Vane Test
- 3-11 Record of Soil Exploration

#### Lecture Topic 2. Consolidation of Soil and Settlement of Structures (HW: 7-2, 7-4, 7-5, 7-7, 7-11)

- 7-1 Introduction (different types of settlement)
- 7-3 Consolidation Test
- 7-4 Normally Consolidated Clay and Over Consolidated Clay
- 7-6 Settlement of Loads on Clay Due to Primary Consolidation
- 7-7 Time Rate of Settlement Due to Primary Consolidation
- 7-8 Settlement of Loads on Clay Due to Secondary Compression
- 7-9 Settlement of Loads on Sand

#### Lecture Topic 3. Shallow Foundations (HW: 9-2, 9-4, 9-6, 9-8, 9-10, 9-12)

- 9-1 Introduction
- 9-2 Loads on Foundations
 

Dead Load	Earth Pressure
Live Load	Water Pressure
Wind Load	Earthquake Forces
Snow Load	
- 9-4 Bearing Capacity Analysis
  - Effect of Water Table on Bearing Capacity
  - Inclined Load
  - Eccentric Load
  - Footings on Slopes
- 9-5 Size of Footings

#### Lecture Topic 4. Deep Foundations (HW: 10-1, 10-4, 10-6, 10-8, 10-14, 10-16)

- 10-1 Introduction
- 10-3 Types of Piles
- 10-5 Pile Capacity
- 10-8 Negative Skin Friction (Down Drag)

- 10-9 Pile Groups and Spacing of Piles
- 10-10 Efficiency of Pile Groups
- 10-12 Settlement of Pile Foundations
  - Settlement of End-Bearing Piles on Bedrock
  - Settlement of Piles in Sand
  - Settlement of Piles in Clay
- 10-14 Introduction to Drilled Shaft Foundations
- 10-15 Bearing Capacity of Drilled Shafts
  - Drilled Shafts in Cohesive Soils
  - Drilled Shafts in Cohesionless Soils
- 10-16 Settlement of Drilled Shafts

**Lecture Topic 5. Lateral Earth Pressure (HW: 11-1, 11-4, 11-5, 11-8)**

- 11-1 Introduction
- 11-2 Earth Pressure at Rest
- 11-3 Rankine Earth Pressures
- 11-5 Effects of a Surcharge Load Upon Active Thrust

**Lecture Topic 6. Retaining Structures (HW: 12-1, 12-4, 12-5)**

- 12-1 Introduction
- 12-2 Retaining Walls
- 12-3 Design Considerations for Retaining Walls
- 12-4 Stability Analysis
- 12-7 Reinforced Earth Walls
- 12-9 Anchored Bulkheads

**Lecture Topic 7. Stability Analysis of Slopes (HW: 13-2, 13-4, 13-6, 13-8)**

- 13-1 Introduction
- 13-2 Analysis of a Mass Resting on an Inclined Layer of Impermeable Soil
- 13-3 Slopes in Homogeneous Cohesionless Soils ( $c = 0, \phi > 0$ )
- 13-4 Slopes in Homogeneous Soils Possessing Cohesion ( $c > 0, \phi = 0$ , and  $c > 0, \phi > 0$ )
- 13-5 Method of Slices

**Lecture Topic 8. Pavement Design (Homework problems and Lecture notes will be provided)**

- Introduction
- Pavement Types
  - Flexible Pavements
  - Rigid Pavements
- Pavement System Design: Principles for Flexible Pavements
- Traditional AASHTO Flexible-Pavement Design Procedure
- Traditional AASHTO Rigid-Pavement Design Procedure

**Review Topics****Review Topic a. Engineering Properties of Soils (HW: 2-2,2-4,2-6,2-9,2-11,2-13,2-17,2-19,2-21)**

- 2-1 Soil Types
- 2-2 Grain-Size Analysis
- 2-3 Soil Consistency-Atterberg Limits
- 2-4 Soil Classification Systems
  - AASHTO Classification System (AASHTO M-145)
  - Unified Soil Classification System (ASTM D 2487)
- 2-5 Components of Soils
- 2-6 Weight/Mass and Volume Relationships

**Review Topic b. Subsurface Stresses in Soils (HW: 6-1, 6-3, 6-5, 6-7, 6-9, 6-11)**

- 6-1 Introduction
- 6-2 Subsurface Stresses Caused by Overlying Soil Masses
- 6-3 Subsurface Stresses Caused by Surface Loadings
- 6-4 Vertical Pressure below a Concentrated Load
  - Boussinesq Equation
- 6-5 Vertical Pressure below a Loaded Surface Area (Uniform Load)
  - Approximate Method
  - Method Based on Elastic Theory

**Review Topic c. Shear Strength of Soil (HW: 8-2, 8-4, 8-5, 8-8, 8-10)**

- 8-1 Introduction
- 8-2 Methods of Investigating Shear Strength
  - Laboratory Methods for Investigating Shear Strength
  - In Situ (Field) Methods for Investigating Shear Strength
- 8-3 Characteristics of the Failure Plane
- 8-4 Shear Strength of Cohesionless Soils
- 8-5 Shear Strength of Cohesive Soils

**Review Topic d. Water in Soil (HW: 5-1, 5-3, 5-5, 5-7, 5-9, 5-11)**

- 5-1 Introduction
- 5-2 Flow of Water in Soils
  - Darcy's Law
  - Laboratory Tests for Coefficient of Permeability
  - Field Tests for Coefficient of Permeability
  - Empirical Relationships for Coefficient of Permeability
  - Permeability in Stratified Soils
- 5-3 Capillary Rise in Soils
- 5-4 Frost Action in Soils

**Review Topic e. Soil Compaction and Stabilization (HW: 4-1, 4-3, 4-5, 4-7)**

- 4-1 Definition and Purpose of Compaction
- 4-2 Laboratory Compaction Tests (ASTM D 698 and D 1557)
- 4-3 Factors Affecting Compaction of Soil
- 4-4 Field Compaction
- 4-5 In-Place Core Unit Weight Test
- 4-6 Field Control of Compaction

## Tentative Lecture Schedule

Week of	Tuesday	Thursday
8/26	Introduction	Review Topic a*
9/2	Lecture Topic 1	Review Topic b
9/9	Lecture Topic 2	Lecture Topic 2
9/16	Lecture Topic 2	Review Topic c
9/23	Review Topic c	Lecture Topic 3
9/30	Lecture Topic 3	Lecture Topic 4
10/7	Lecture Topic 4	Lecture Topic 4
10/14	Lecture Topic 5	Lecture Topic 5
10/21	Lecture Topic 6	Lecture Topic 6
10/28	Lecture Topic 6	Lecture Topic 7
11/4	Lecture Topic 7	Lecture Topic 7
11/11	Lecture Topic 8	Lecture Topic 8
11/18	Lecture Topic 8	Review Topic d
11/25	Review Topic d	Thanksgiving
12/2	Review Topic e	Review

\* Review Topics are shaded in yellow. You have already studied them in Geotechnical Engineering.