

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Name: **Structural Analysis**

Course Code: **CIVENG 3G04**

Session Offered: Fall 2025 (Term 1)

Calendar Description: Structural analysis and modelling of linear elastic truss, beam and frame structures; stress resultants and deformations of statically determinate structures; methods for analysis of indeterminate structures; stiffness matrix method; plane frame computer analysis.

Instructor: Dr. Michael Tait

Phone: 905-525-9140 x26469

Email: taitm@mcmaster.ca

Office Hours/Contact: TBD

Class Schedule Day(s):

Time:

CIVENG 3G04-C01

MoWe 11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. Fr 1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

CIVENG 3G04-T01

Mo 8:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Recommended Reference Material: Structural Analysis by Aslam Kassimali, (6th ed.), Cengage (2019).

Teaching Assistants: TBD

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is to introduce and provide opportunities to apply techniques of linear elastic structural analysis to truss, beam and frame systems. Emphasis will be placed on developing an understanding of methods of analysis that are applicable to both simple and complex structural systems.

2. COURSE SPECIFIC POLICIES

All lectures and tutorials are mandatory.

All email exchanges are to be via McMaster University email accounts. Emails from non-McMaster accounts will not receive a reply and will not be valid via Avenue.

Lecture notes, additional notes and assignments will be posted on Avenue. Students are expected to check and read all the materials posted on Avenue.

Accommodations for missed academic work with a granted relief are as follows:

1. Term tests: there will be no makeup test and the missed test grade portion will be re-allocated to the final examination.
2. Assignments will be extended by the same length of the absence. Late assignment submissions with no granted relief: the assignment grade will be reduced by 20% per each late day. Late assignments that are submitted after 5 days from the deadline will not be accepted.
3. The following course schedule is tentative. The instructor and the University reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. Any changes you will be announced in class and/or posted on A2L.

3. SCHEDULE		LECTURES	TUTORIALS
WEEK 1	Introduction / Determinacy / Stability		Review
WEEK 2	Trusses – Method of Sections & Joints		Assignment 1
WEEK 3	Beams & Frames – Axial/Shear/ Moment		Assignment 2
WEEK 4	Direct Integration		Assignment 3
WEEK 5	Moment Area Method		Test 1 - October 6
WEEK 6	Slope Deflection Method		Mid-Term Recess
WEEK 7	Mid-term Recess		Assignment 4
WEEK 8	Moment Distribution Method		Assignment 5
WEEK 9	Method of Consistent Deformations		Assignment 6
WEEK 10	Approximate Methods		Test 2 - November 10
WEEK 11	Matrix Method		Assignment 7
WEEK 12	Matrix Method		Assignment 8
WEEK 13	Matrix Method / Review		Review of Course Material
FINAL EXAMINATION	Scheduled during the regular University Final Examination period established by the Registrar's Office		
4. ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING			WEIGHT %
Assignments			30%
Tests			30%
Final Exam			40%
LECTURES AND TUTORIALS			
The classes and tutorials are the primary means for delivering the course material and for regular communication between the instructor/TAs and the class. The lectures and tutorials will be used to present theoretical background and some illustrative examples. The tutorials will also be used to demonstrate additional examples, provide assistance with problem solving, and complete a portion of the current assignment.			
Assignments			
The purpose of the assignment problems is to give you an opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of the course material. All work that you submit for grading must be your own work. Assignments are to be submitted through Avenue to Learn, do not submit assignments by email.			
Final Exam			
This will be a cumulative synchronous exam, to be scheduled during the regular University Final Examination period established by the Registrar's Office.			
MSAF			
If you do not write a term test or submit an assignment at the scheduled time and you do not file a MSAF you will receive a grade of zero on the missed work. Additional details can be found at http://mcmaster.ca/msaf/ .			

5. LEARNING OUTCOMES

When you have successfully completed this course, you will be able to:

- Understand and Apply Engineering Fundamentals
- Identify and state reasonable assumptions and suitable engineering fundamentals, before proposing a solution path to a problem.
- Evaluate engineering tools, identify their limitations, and select, adapt, or extend them appropriately.
- Successfully use engineering tools.

To attain the learning outcomes stated above we will:

- Examine the fundamental principles governing the behaviour of linear elastic structures -- review construction of axial, shear, and bending moment diagrams
- Review the important distinctions between statically determinate and indeterminate structures -- become familiar with modelling truss, beam and frame structures, as needed for analysis
- Investigate the use and merits of various classical techniques of structural analysis
- Develop and apply matrix techniques for structural analysis of planar trusses, beams and frames -- investigate the use of approximate methods for the analysis of indeterminate structures

CEAB Graduate Attributes and Indicators:

Through this course, you will develop in the following attributes and indicators:

1. A01 - A KNOWLEDGE BASE FOR ENGINEERING - 1.3 Competence in Engineering Fundamentals
2. A02 - PROBLEM ANALYSIS - 2.1 Identifies and states reasonable assumptions and suitable engineering fundamentals, before proposing a solution path to a problem.
3. A05 - USE OF ENGINEERING TOOLS - 5.1 Evaluates engineering tools, identifies their limitations, and selects, adapts, or extends them appropriately.
4. A05 - USE OF ENGINEERING TOOLS - 5.2 Successfully uses engineering tools.

6. LABORATORY SAFETY

The Faculty of Engineering is committed to McMaster University's Workplace and Environmental Health and Safety Policy which states: "Students are required by University policy to comply with all University health, safety and environmental programs and policies". It is your responsibility to understand McMaster University's Risk Management system, which is supported by a collection of Risk Management Manuals (RMMs) that contain programs and policies in support of the Risk Management System. The RMMs are available from https://hr.mcmaster.ca/employees/health_safety_well-being/our-safety/risk-management-manuals-rmms/.

It is also your responsibility to follow any specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) provided for specific experiments (see course lab manuals) and the laboratory equipment https://www.eng.mcmaster.ca/sites/default/files/civil_lab_health_and_safety_manual.pdf

Additionally, McMaster University's workplace health and safety guidance related to COVID-19 must always be followed (available from <https://hr.mcmaster.ca/resources/covid19/workplace-health-and-safety-guidance-during-covid-19/>).

Students not abiding by these safety requirements will be given one warning. Second offences will result in the student being asked to vacate the laboratory and receiving a grade of zero for that particular lab.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to:

- Maintain current contact information with the University, including address, phone numbers, and emergency contact information.
- Use the University provided e-mail address or maintain a valid forwarding e-mail address.
- Regularly check the official University communications channels. Official University communications are considered received if sent by postal mail, by fax, or by e-mail to the student's designated primary e-mail account via their "@mcmaster.ca" alias.
- Accept that forwarded e-mails may be lost and that e-mail is considered received if sent via the student's @mcmaster.ca alias.
- Check the McMaster/Avenue email and course websites on a regular basis during the term.

8. POLICIES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca or <mailto:sas@mcmaster.cato> to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities policy.

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Policy on Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work. <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/msaf-policy/>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

9. MCMASTER GRADING SCALE

Grade	Equivalent Grade Point	Equivalent Percentages
A+	12	90-100
A	11	85-89
A-	10	80-84
B+	9	77-79
B	8	73-76
B-	7	70-72
C+	6	67-69
C	5	63-66
C-	4	60-62
D+	3	57-59
D	2	53-56
D-	1	50-52
F	0	0-49