

MECH ENG 2C04 – Mechanical Engineering Design

Project I- Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Hassan

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The information in this course outline is accurate at the time of writing but may be modified at the instructor's discretion. Any modifications will be made with an effort to minimize disruptions to student learning.

This course is being delivered fully in person

Lecture: Wednesday 1130 and Friday 1330, room per Mosaic

Labs:

- You **must** attend **your** group's assigned time and location to manage room capacity and supervision
- TA contact information will be posted on Avenue

Office hours: 1130-1230 Tuesday Dr. Hassan's office

"Office hours" are when I am planning to be there and available to work with students. You can come for feedback on an assignment before you submit, ask questions about something I covered in lecture, get help with your project, get advice on problems with your group, or anything else that you would like my help with. You're also welcome to consult me after class, I've blocked time after each lecture for this purpose.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the MECHENG 2C04, the student should be able to:

1. Work as an effective team member on a mechanical design project.
2. Generate multiple design alternatives.
3. Select an initial design solution.
4. Analyze and evaluate the design solution using a CAD generated model.
5. Prepare an invoice based on the contribution of the team members and material costs.
6. Construct a written design project report with engineering and manufacturing drawings.
7. Use CAD to generate data for manufacturing components using a 3D printer and laser cutter.
8. Present their design solution to an audience.
9. Proficiently use a solid modeling CAD system to create part and assembly models and to generate drawings and bills of material;
10. Properly dimension engineering drawings according to national standards;
11. Select appropriate views and use drawing conventions such as sectioning and auxiliary views to communicate part design information;

This course is intended to encourage you to develop **independent** engineering judgement. You may notice that this project is more open-ended than 1st year projects, and there is less “scaffolding”. This is intentional and designed to guide your development.

Graduate Attributes:

MECHENG 2C04 provides the student the opportunity to develop competence in the following CEAB graduate attributes:

Graduate Attributes
4.01 - Recognizes and follows an engineering design process. (This means an iterative activity that might include recognizing the goal, specifying the constraints and desired outcomes, proposing solutions, evaluating alternatives, deciding on a solution, and implementing.)
4.02 - Recognizes and follows engineering design principles including appropriate consideration of environmental, social and economic aspects as well as health and safety issues.
4.03 - Proposes solutions to open-ended problems.
4.04 - Employs appropriate techniques for generation of creative ideas such as brainstorming and structured inventive thinking.
4.06 - Determines and employs applicable standards and codes of practice.
5.02 - Demonstrates an ability to use modern/state of the art tools.

Contact guidelines:

- I (Dr. Hassan) will be present at lectures.
- A TA and/or technician will be present during your labs.
- During the workday I’m very fast with email, but slower in the evenings and on weekends. You can expect that email will generally be replied to within 24h, but please include the course code (2C04) in the subject line for fastest response, and follow these guidelines:

Topic	Contact
General Inquiries	Email or Teams message to Dr. Hassan, office hours in person, after class
In class questions	Talk to me after class
Mark adjustments/ grading questions	Email to Dr. Hassan only, please do not use Microsoft Teams Regrading requests take a little bit longer to respond to than other emails because I need to be thoughtful about them. I use email for record keeping purposes.
Help with Inventor	During lab time, TA

- If you need to speak with me directly, you can talk to me at class, go to office hours, or make an appointment via email. Appointments outside office hours are very limited due to my heavy teaching schedule this term, please use office hours as much as you can.
- I cannot “check” individual homework during office hours or by email, because I can’t do it for the whole class, it would not be fair. But I’m always happy to answer specific technical questions via email/Teams or during office hours.
- A Microsoft team will be set-up for the class, primarily for backup in case of instructor illness or presentation file sharing. No course materials, announcements or recordings will be posted on Teams, that is what Avenue will be used for.

Equipment/Text/Software:

- **There is no mandatory textbook for this class, my notes should be sufficient, posted on Avenue.**
- However, if you would like more depth or are just someone who learns better from a textbook, the following book is a great and inexpensive resource: “The Engineering Design Process: An Introduction for Mechanical Engineers” by Peter Ostafichuk, available at the bookstore or on Amazon
- For labs, you may use your own device with **Autodesk Inventor** (download for free at autodesk.ca) or the computer lab (ABB C208), or any other software package you choose.
 - I recommend getting an access card from the Hub (2nd floor JHE) so that you can access the computer lab (ABB C208) and Design Studio (JHE 207), these are available for a small deposit and can be used throughout your time at McMaster.
 - If you cannot use the software due to your system limitations, you can access the Mechanical Engineering computer lab (ABB C208) remotely or in person; instructions will be posted on Avenue.
 - I’m not concerned with which version or package you use, but using the same version as your colleagues will make working with them easier, and any parts I provide will be easier to work with in the current version of Inventor.
 - Similarly, feel free to use Autodesk Fusion (it runs on Mac systems), but be aware that there are compatibility issues with Inventor, make sure you’re able to

participate with your group and be aware that all provided materials will be in Inventor.

- We can't help you with Autodesk licensing issues. If you have those issues, the advice is to sign in and out of the Autodesk website or to uninstall previous versions and reinstall the new version.
- There may be some lectures or labs where you will be required to hand sketch. As long as the drawing is legible, either paper or digital is acceptable. Please have the equipment required to hand sketch ready for each lecture session.
- Course materials will be posted on Avenue and I will communicate with you only via your McMaster email account. Please check your McMaster email for updates.
- You may acquire materials for your group project over and above the provided fabrication budget, you can do this in any way that you wish. For example, you can buy a new kit from the bookstore (cost \$125.99), you can salvage from other objects, you can purchase from last year's students.

Lectures

- Lecture will be in person in the room listed on Mosaic
- In the case of instructor illness, an announcement will be posted on Avenue regarding cancellation or a synchronous lecture via Microsoft Teams.
- There will be participation elements worth a small grade amount (in class assignments) during the lecture. These may or may not be possible to do without lecture attendance.
- Echo360 will be used to record the lectures, and posted with a 48 hour delay. These recordings are backup only, and the audio/video quality is not guaranteed.

Lab Activities:

- Every week you will meet with your TA for a mini design review (mandatory). You will also have time for optional CAD help if you need it, plus fabrication and testing.
- You will have access to a 3D printer for the duration of your time in ABB C202 (lab). It is up to your team to manage the use of this printer (eg individual vs group project fabrication, small groups sharing with other groups etc).
- To manage the room capacity you need to go to your lab with your group.
- You may miss one lab day per term with no penalty.

- No solvents, glues, power tools or particulates are allowed in ABB C208. If a TA asks you to stop fabrication for safety reasons, that request is absolute.

Assignments

- There are no exams in this class, therefore it is imperative that you treat the projects and assignments with the same care and attention as you would an exam since they are worth similar amounts to exams.
- All submissions must be digital, pdf files, via Avenue. Make sure that photos, scans or pdfs of your drawings are legible so the TAs can grade them. **Drawings submitted on lined paper, or drawings that are illegible for another reason will be given a grade of 0.**
- DO NOT EMAIL work to me or the TAs, even if you miss the deadline. I never accept work via email or Teams, **only** via Avenue.
 - Why? Grading work outside of Avenue is undesirable for a number of reasons (record keeping, accreditation, fairness, efficiency). It makes it harder on everyone when submission guidelines are not followed
- If you have an accommodation from SAS that allows for an extended deadline and I have received the letter from SAS, your dropbox availability will automatically be extended for every assignment, no need to email. If you need something additional related to your accommodation, email Dr. Hassan. I want my class to be enjoyable and accessible to everyone so I'll do whatever I can to accommodate.
- **In-class assignments:** At most classes (lecture) there will be an in-class assignment or quiz. It is possible some of these will require in class work. Assignments can be submitted for up to 24 hours after the end of class.
 - The lecture recordings will be posted after these assignments expire.
 - These will be available on Avenue either as a quiz or assignment, the name will be the date of the class.
 - Grace period: 24 hours after end of class
- **All other work** Hand in on Avenue, due at 1159 pm Friday, grace period ends 1159 the following Sunday (2 days later).
 - If you miss the grace period, you will need an MSAF.

- If you have a SAS accommodation you will automatically be given a week in addition to the **original** deadline.
- **Grace period:** work is due Fridays but no penalty will be given if you hand in until midnight Sunday, no need to email or MSAF; the Avenue dropbox will simply remain open.
 - In general, I recommend that you try to complete the work as it is assigned. This is intended to help you keep a schedule and past students have indicated that handing in as scheduled is important to their success in the course.
 - I implemented this policy because I want to grade your best work and I care about your stress level.
 - Use the grace period for any reason, no questions asked. If you think it's a good reason to hand in late, it probably is.
 - This is intended for the big and little things that happen in all our lives from time to time: you have a minor illness, you don't want to miss your mom's birthday, you have to work at your job, your varsity team has a game, you have a midterm in another class, your laptop breaks, your internet is slow etc.
 - Things that affect our ability to hand in work happen to all of us at some point, so I am extending you a bit of "grace" with this policy. In return, I ask that you do the same to your teammates and treat each other kindly as you work together.
 - Please note: At the end of the grace period, the dropbox will close, any assignment not submitted will be considered late and will receive a zero. If your internet breaks as you are handing in at the end of the grace period, that is unfortunate, but the end of the grace period is the end. Please hand in sooner to allow for that kind of problem, that's what the grace period is for.
 - Any work that has been handed in is eligible to be graded immediately. If multiple submissions are present, the most recent will be graded. However, once work has been graded, no new submissions will be considered, even within the grace period.
- A MSAF results in an additional one week from the original Friday deadline to complete your work, **not cancellation of that work**. If you miss the grace period and still wish to hand in work you must use a MSAF.

- **Grading:** Rubric feedback will be posted on Avenue, if after reviewing the guide you think that your assignment has a grading error, send Dr. Hassan an email **detailing the grading error specifically** and I will re-grade your work. Do not email the grading TA, all grade changes are done by Dr. Hassan.
 - Keep in mind that I will re-grade the entire assignment, not just the criteria that you have identified. If that re-grading yields a lower grade, I will not adjust your grade, but if it yields a higher one I will.
 - **Questioning your grade will never result in a penalty for you.**
- Regrading requests take a little bit longer to respond to than other emails because I need to be thoughtful about them, and they aren't as urgent as questions about work that has yet to be handed in. I appreciate your patience.
- Your lowest 20% of in-class quizzes or activities will be dropped. For example, if 15 quizzes are handed in during the term, I will drop your worst 3.
 - The purpose of this scale to reward consistent participation. Even if you are not always correct or present, you can still achieve a high participation grade (since "perfect" is actually 80%)
- **All course work MUST be handed in by the end of day (1159pm EST) Sunday December 13, 2026 no extensions, MSAFS do not apply during the exam period.**

Plagiarism and Use of AI:

Students are not permitted to use generative AI in this course. In alignment with McMaster academic integrity policy, it "shall be an offence knowingly to ... submit academic work for assessment that was purchased or acquired from another source". This includes work created by generative AI tools. Also state in the policy is the following, "Contract Cheating is the act of "outsourcing of student work to third parties" (Lancaster & Clarke, 2016, p. 639) with or without payment." Using Generative AI tools is a form of contract cheating. Charges of academic dishonesty will be brought forward to the Office of Academic Integrity.

This includes the use of AI for:

- creating ideas, sketches, models or renders for any purpose in this course,
- writing text for reports

All work will be checked for plagiarism and suspected AI use using the Turnitin features built into Avenue2Learn. You do not need to do anything other than hand in the work normally.

- Work that is flagged will be reviewed by the instructor and you may need to provide supplemental documentation to show that the work is yours.
- If after review, it is determined that academic dishonesty has occurred, a grade adjustment will occur, up to and including a grade of 0.

Teamwork:

- Teamwork is a critical part of this class and a critical part of engineering practice.
- Teams may be groups of 2, 3 or 4 students. You may form your own groups as long as you are all in the same lab section on Mosaic. I cannot help you switch sections, Mosaic is beyond my control.
- The expectations of the teams does not depend on group size, all groups will have the same rubrics and performance expectations.
- If I need to add or move members to teams to meet everyone's needs, I reserve the right to do so.
- Your team will be sharing a 3D printer within your team (and potentially with another team depending on lab size and group size). It is up to your team to share this resource equitably.
- If you need help finding group members, talk to your design review TA.
- Insufficient contributions to your team project **are a form of academic dishonesty** and will be dealt with accordingly.
- Harassing or abusive conduct is prohibited by your student code of conduct. There is zero tolerance for harassment or abusive conduct in this class.

Individual Project:

- You can make your parts at any time during the lab sessions. It is your responsibility to share your team's printer fairly between the members. You are also welcome to make your part at home if you have access.
- A full rules document will be posted on Avenue.
- Your task is to build the "best" bottle opener using the resources provided.

- Your fabrication budget is the use of your group's printer during all lab sessions, up to a pre-defined limit of filament.

Group project:

- **THE RULES ARE DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR'S CLASS. READ ALL DOCUMENTATION CAREFULLY.**
- A full rules document will be posted on Avenue.
- Rules are subject to change by Dr. Hassan due to the uncertainty of this kind of work, but all changes will be in the students' favour (meaning they will make the challenge easier, not harder). Any changes will be posted on Avenue.
- A change for this year: you may use any motor you wish
 - You may purchase these motors from whatever source you wish (e.g. from past students). The bookstore has them packaged in a convenient kit, their kit price is probably the same or a little lower than other sources because they bought in bulk. **Please only buy one kit per group to leave enough for everyone.**
 - If you purchase elsewhere be careful and read the specification sheet.
 - One of your lab activities is plugging in and using your testing motors (regardless of source), make sure you have your kit or parts in time for that lab activity.
 - The TAs will be able to assist you with debugging the bookstore provided kits, other components and wiring may be outside their expertise.
 - If a TA thinks that your components or wiring are unsafe you will not be able to use them, the TAs judgement is absolute.

Research:

You may be invited to participate in a research study being conducted by Dr. Hassan. You are under absolutely no obligation to participate and your participation will have no effect on your grade in this or any other course. Dr. Hassan will never know if you participate in any research study.

Course Grade Breakdown:

Group – 52%	Individual – 48%
• Group Project (GR1, GR2, GR3) - 35%	• Individual Assignments (A1, A2, A3) – 24%

• Design Review -7% • Group Prototype testing – 10%* see below	• Individual prototype testing – 5%* • CAD1-3 – 15% • Participation via Avenue Quiz – 2% • Mini DR – 2%
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Group Prototype/Report grade adjustment:

- I want to encourage creativity and I also recognize the uncertainty of producing a robot on a short timescale. Therefore, I created this grading policy so that prototype testing can never hurt your grade. This allows students to learn from testing failures and write an excellent report to make up for it.
 - This policy applies to both the individual and group prototype
- If your prototype grade (%) is higher than your report grade (%), I will use your prototype grade for the “Prototype Testing” grade item.
- If your prototype grade (%) is lower than your report grade (%), I will use a value equivalent to your report grade percentage for the “Prototype Testing” grade item.
- In either case, your report grade is unaffected.
- To make use of this policy you must have some kind of a prototype score (eg weight and the judged categories even if the prototype does not function)
 - If you do not bring a prototype to at least one testing session for scoring, your prototype grade of 0 will remain regardless of your report grade.

Weekly Plan

Assignment numbering: A = Individual, GR = Group
CAD assignments are individual

Deadlines are the earliest an assignment can be due, I may adjust later if necessary.
Lecture topic schedule is approximate and may be adjusted based on class progress.

Week of		Lecture	Lab (ABB C202)	Hand In, Due Friday midnight
0	7-Sep	Intro, Rules Concept generation	No lab, form teams	
1	14-Sep	Functional analysis, Concept Selection	Mini DR+ optional CAD help	
2	21-Sep	Electric motors CAD part drawings	Mini DR + optional CAD help	
3	28-Sep	Wed lect cancelled for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Fri: part design	Mini DR + optional CAD help	A1(5%), CAD1(5%)
4	5-Oct	Wiring motors, basic arduino	Mini DR + optional CAD help	GR1 (10%)+ group video DR (7%)
Reading Week – Enjoy yourselves				
5	19-Oct	Part refinement and assemblies	Test your motors + Mini DR+ optional CAD help	
6	26-Oct	Constraint and shafts	Test your motors + Mini DR+ optional CAD help	
7	2-Nov	Dimensioning, presenting test data	Test your motors + Mini DR+ optional CAD help	
8	9-Nov	Assembly Drawings, part optimization	Test your parts + Mini DR+ optional CAD help	GR2 – test report (10%)
9	16-Nov	Dimensioning Tolerances and GD&T	Test your parts + Mini DR+ optional CAD help	
10	23-Nov	Tolerances and GD&T, DFMA	Mini DR + optional CAD help	A2 (10%), CAD2 (5%)
11	30-Nov	Test your robot/Troubleshooting in ABB C202	Mini DR + optional CAD help + Test your robot	A3 (9%), CAD3 (5%)
12	7-Dec	Test your robot/Troubleshooting in ABB C202	Test your robot	GR3 (15%) Group Prototype (10%)
Hand in all work no later than midnight EST Sun Dec 13 2026 *No Extensions*				

- Parts can be tested earlier than week 8 if your parts are ready

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Every registered student belongs in this course. Diversity of backgrounds and experiences is expected and welcome. You can expect your Instructor to be respectful of this diversity in all aspects of the course, and the same is expected of you.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering is committed to creating an environment in which students of all genders, cultures, ethnicities, races, sexual orientations, abilities, and socioeconomic backgrounds have equal access to education and are welcomed and treated fairly. If you have any concerns regarding inclusion in our Department, in particular if you or one of your peers is experiencing harassment or discrimination, you are encouraged to contact the Chair, Associate Undergraduate Chair, Academic Advisor or to contact the [Equity and Inclusion Office](#).

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

For a list of McMaster University's resources, please refer to the [Student Wellness Centre](#). [Talkspot](#) is a non-crisis mental health resource specifically for students in the Faculty of Engineering.

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](#), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. improper collaboration in group work.
3. 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

McMaster is committed to an inclusive and respectful community. These principles and expectations extend to online activities including electronic chat groups, video calls and other learning platforms.

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.

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 to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC WORK

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

1. **Relief for missed academic work worth less than 25% of the final grade resulting from medical or personal situations lasting up to three calendar days:**
 - Use the [McMaster Student Absence Form](#) (MSAF) on-line self-reporting tool. No further documentation is required.
 - Students may submit requests for relief using the MSAF once per term.
 - An automated email will be sent to the course instructor, who will determine the appropriate relief. Students must immediately follow up with their instructors. Failure to do so may negate the opportunity for relief.
 - The MSAF cannot be used to meet a religious obligation or to celebrate an important religious holiday.
 - The MSAF cannot be used for academic work that has already been completed attempted.

- An MSAF applies only to work that is due within the period for which the MSAF applies, i.e. the 3-day period that is specified in the MSAF; however, all work due in that period can be covered by one MSAF.
 - The MSAF cannot be used to apply for relief for any final examination or its equivalent. See *Petitions for Special Consideration* above.
2. **For medical or personal situations lasting more than three calendar days, and/or for missed academic work worth 25% or more of the final grade, and/or for any request for relief in a term where the MSAF has been used previously in that term:**
- Students must report to their Faculty Office to discuss their situation and will be required to provide appropriate **supporting documentation**.
 - If warranted, the Faculty Office will approve the absence, and the instructor will determine appropriate relief.

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.