

**ENGPYHS 2P04**  
**Computational Mechanics: Statics**  
**Undergraduate Studies**  
**Fall 2024**  
**Course Outline**

Current as of Fri 2024-08-30 08:19:37; see A2L for the most up-to-date version of this document

**CALENDAR/COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Classical mechanics topics including static equilibrium, machines and trusses, determinacy, force and bending moment diagrams, elasticity, shear, principal stresses, tensors, Voigt notation, flexure, and torsion. Course topics are explored analytically and computationally using finite element method and computer algebra system software. Three lectures, one lab (two hours each); first term

**PRE-REQUISITES AND ANTI-REQUISITES**

Prerequisite(s): PHYSICS 1D03; and credit or registration in MATH 2Z03. Registration in ENGPYHS 2CD4 is recommended.

Antirequisite(s): None

**INSTRUCTOR OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

Dr. Matt Minnick  
BSB/B106  
[minnick@mcmaster.ca](mailto:minnick@mcmaster.ca)  
ext. 24546

Office Hours:  
TBA

**TEACHING ASSISTANT OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

See A2L for TA info

**COURSE WEBSITE/ALTERNATE METHODS OF COMMUNICATION**

The primary method of communication will be

1. Avenue To Learn (A2L, <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>) news postings for announcements - make sure to set your A2L email settings so it emails these to you.
2. MS Teams ("Course Forum") for announcements, questions, etc.
3. Email for individual messages.

**COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

1. Explain a variety of core principles in static mechanics
2. Use a computer algebra system (Maple) to solve a variety of physics and math problems
3. Use a FEM solver (FlexPDE) to solve the partial differential equations of elasticity in statics problems on complex geometries

**MATERIALS AND FEES**

COMPUTER:

Students should have a laptop computer (needed for in-person practical test exercises) capable of simultaneously running FlexPDE, Maple, and Microsoft Word (Windows machines are recommended, price point of \$500 or up should be fine). You will be required to use this for the in-class quizzes and lab demos.

SOFTWARE:

FlexPDE Student Version (free online), Maple (Version 15 or higher), MS Word (2007 or newer).

REFERENCE TEXTS:

-[Required] Course notes (free online via A2L)

-[Required] Engineering Mechanics: Statics & Dynamics by Hibbeler, 15th edition (same text as 2P04) →discount if you get it through the campus bookstore

### COURSE FORMAT AND EXPECTATIONS

Note: same format for 2CD4 and 2P04, just on different (but complementary) topics

The course is organized as follows

Resources:

-Lecture notes & examples (online)

-Question bank

-Select course videos explaining past versions of the notes & some practice problems (on [YouTube](#))

To maximize your success, you should:

1. Regularly review the Teams page and A2L for new information and participate in the learning community they establish by asking (and where possible, answering) questions there,
2. Treat your computer (and classmates) with love and respect,
3. Be enthusiastic about the material, and envision wild success with your attempts to learn it,
4. Review the notes and textbook sections prior to the live lecture,
5. Show up to the live lecture on time and ready to work through the problems along with me (i.e., equipped with your computer setup to work through practice problems for the topic),
6. Study the content with your peers,
7. Aim to understand before you memorize,
8. Reflect on problems after you get the answer, and
9. Reflect on topics to summarize key points, then review and use these summaries throughout the course to build up & refine your formula sheet.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

See A2L for a detailed course schedule.

### ASSESSMENT

Assessment Item	Each	Number	Number Counted	Total
Lab Interview Demos	8%	10	5	<b>40%</b>
Final Exam	60%	1	1	<b>60%-RWB</b>
RWB	?			<b>RWB</b>
Grand Total				<b>100%</b>

Note that there are 11 weeks of labs, but not all of them have an interview demo – see the schedule for details. Note that the MSAF policy is as follows: MSAF'd lab interview demos reweight the grades associated with that component (if any) to the lab exam. This would only happen if you (e.g., with the help of administrative MSAFs in extreme circumstances) MSAF'd 6 or more of the Lab Interview Demos.

#### REWEIGHT BONUS (RWB):

Grades above will count only your best 5 of 10 labs (interview demo), each worth 8%

Any marks earned on remaining ones pool together into "excess marks"

Excess marks then transform into reweight bonus marks as follows:

$RWB = 3\% \cdot \sqrt{\text{total excess marks in \%}}$

RWB then directly replaces exam weight.

(10% RWB would mean the exam is worth 50% instead of 60% and you have a 10% weight thing you have a grade of 100% on.)

e.g., If you did only 7 out of 10 lab demos and got scores of 90%, 80%, 70%, 90%, 80%, 85%, and 30% this gives you a score of  $\text{avg}(90\%, 90\%, 85\%, 80\%, 80\%) = 85\%$  on the 40%-weighted lab component, plus

$70\% \cdot 8\% + 30\% \cdot 8\% = 8\%$  "excess marks".

$RWB = 3\% \cdot \sqrt{8} = 8.49\%$

Final exam is then worth  $(60\% - 8.49\%) = 51.51\%$ , and you have a new grade component worth 8.49% that you have 100% on added to your final grade.

Final grade is then  $85\% \cdot 40\% \text{ (labs)} + \text{<ExamGrade>} \cdot 51.51\% \text{ (exam)} + 8.49\%$ .

Note that the RWB scales very slowly with increasing excess marks, so messing up or missing a few things isn't a big deal by itself, while at the same time participating at any level you can (e.g., still doing your best even on your worst days) will always earn you some marks. The max possible RWB (attending and getting 100% on all 10 interview demos) is  $3\% \cdot \sqrt{40} = 19\%$ . In contrast, scoring an average of only 50% over your worst 5 labs would already earn  $3\% \cdot \sqrt{20} = 13.4\%$  RWB. This means that in most situations if you put in the work week-after-week in the course your final exam will be worth less than 50% and you'll have already passed the course going into the exam.

#### LAB INTERVIEW DEMOS

All labs after the first lab will be a "lab interview demo" wherein you'll first prepare and submit a write-up of your work on the lecture topics from the previous week (and possibly earlier, see "coverage" below), then answer questions about it and the topics you covered on a one-on-one interview with the TA including a part where you use your laptop computer to solve a variation on one of the problems live.

1. Preparing the work write-up – earning "Potential Lab Grade":
  - a. For each lecture, you need to write up (digitally in a word doc, while providing code where applicable)
    - i. 2 points: Class example problem solutions (anything Dr. Minnick covers the solution for in class)
    - ii. 1 point: Lecture quiz solution (solution to the lecture quiz problem from that class)
    - iii. 1 point: Your own summary of key concepts & equations (e.g., reflection on the topic & what it means, what you might want to include on a formula sheet)
    - iv. 2 points: Solutions for the practice problem(s) in the Question Bank (just the problem, not the modification, exam-style, or concept problems)
  - b. You can work with and get help from others and the TAs, but your submitted work must be your own work that you understand
  - c. Each complete item you submit is worth one point; if there are multiple questions (or questions with multiple parts) and you only complete some of them, divide the points evenly between them, and be clear what fraction of the work you're claiming to have done.
    - i. Potential Lab Grade =  $\sqrt{\text{The total points divided by the total available points}}$ 
      1. e.g., if you do & write up all of the work for 2 out of 3 lectures your potential grade =  $\sqrt{0.67} = 81.6\%$
      2. If you submit *only* the lecture quizzes & reflections from all 3 lectures your potential grade =  $\sqrt{0.33} = 57.7\%$
      3. Note that if the TA cannot easily understand your submission because it is disorganized or otherwise not presented clearly they cannot award you the marks for it.
  - d. You must submit the writeup at least 36 hours before your scheduled lab's start time. Submitting late will incur a late penalty of 8% per hour (from your potential grade prior to the sqrt), possibly reducing it to 0 if submitted 13 or more hours late. Even in extenuating circumstances we cannot accept submissions beyond this time at all because it will not leave your TA with enough time to assess your work prior to your demo.
    - i. This late penalty is multiplicative with potential grade prior to the sqrt. e.g., if you submitted a complete and clear writeup for 67% of the work the lab covered, but submitted it 5 hours late, your potential grade will be  $\sqrt{67\% * (1 - 5 \text{ hr late} * 8\%/\text{hr late})} = \sqrt{67\% * (60\%)} = 63.4\%$ .
2. During the interview:
  - a. During your interview, your TA will ask you several questions selected from the work you submitted:
    - i. 3 simple "what does this mean?" style questions directly about your writeup. Could be referring to variables in equations, equations themselves, lines of code ("what does this do?"), figures, etc.
    - ii. 1 concept question from one of the topics you submitted some work for
    - iii. 1 modification question from the one of the topics you submitted a class example problem or practice problem writeup for (forfeited if you did not submit any) – this will require you to solve a slightly different problem on the spot, which will usually require you to be able to modify & re-run your code, then interpret the result and whether it makes sense.
      1. Note that this means you must usually solve these problems using computer tools as-demonstrated in class.

- b. The TA will assign you grades on each of these questions. Average grade across all 5 (i.e., sum of grades / 5, meaning they all count even if you didn't answer some) multiplied by your *potential grade* (see above) determines your *actual lab interview grade*.
  3. Coverage:
    - a. Labs cover up to the last lecture from the week *prior* to the lab (see the schedule)
    - b. Special cases:
      - i. Some lectures don't have all types of components; e.g., first lecture has only the reflection, lectures after #30 don't have QB problems. In those cases, the lectures are worth fewer than 6 points towards potential grades, and don't weigh as heavily as other lectures in the lab covering them.
      - ii. If you miss a lab for any reason then the next lab you do attend can *optionally* include content from the missed weeks as well as content covered on the current lab. Despite the larger potential coverage, it will still be worth the same amount as any other lab. This is just to give you a chance to show off and get some credit for work you did but didn't get a chance to have an interview about.

#### FINAL EXAM

1. The final exam is a closed book written exam answered on paper, but does allow you to bring the McMaster Standard Calculator and a double-sided formula sheet
  - a. Your formula sheet can include concepts, but shouldn't include questions & answers to question bank questions
2. The exam will have questions from or similar to the question bank (but modified to be doable without a computer; e.g., won't actually need you to code anything, but may include concept questions based on results of coding or in some cases syntax questions, but only where similar ones were included in the question bank)
  - a. The exam will be multiple choice, but you will need to explain your reasoning to get credit for a question (e.g., if you select the right option, but don't explain why in a way that shows you understand, you won't get full marks for it, and might get zero marks if your explanation is bad enough or missing entirely).
  - b. Part marks will typically be awarded in cases where your reasoning or answer is partially but not completely correct (e.g., multi-part questions)
    - i. Note that writing an equation from the topic by itself usually won't get any marks if you can't also show you know how to use it in this situation.
3. See the sample exams on A2L for an example of the exam – these are identical in format, length, difficulty, and section coverage to the real exam.

<b>ACCREDITATION LEARNING OUTCOMES</b>
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The Learning Outcomes defined in this section are measured for Accreditation purposes only and will not be directly taken into consideration in determining a student's grade in the course.

Outcomes	Indicators
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Capable of solving systems of equations and use a variety of matrix methods using computer algebra tools	1.1 - Competence in Mathematics
Can examine an engineering problem in static mechanics and decide whether to optimally tackle it analytically, with a CAS like Maple, or with FEM like with FlexPDE	5.1 Evaluates engineering tools, identifies their limitations, and selects, adapts, or extends them appropriately.
Can use CAS and FEM solvers to solve mechanics problems computationally	5.2 Successfully uses engineering tools.

For more information on Accreditation, please visit: <https://www.engineerscanada.ca>

### 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 Engineering Physics 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](#).

### PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

For a list of McMaster University's resources, please refer to the [Student Wellness Centre](#).

### 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:

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](http://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](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

#### COURSE POLICY ON MISSED WORK, EXTENSIONS, AND LATE PENALTIES

It is the students' responsibility to regularly check the course forum for updates and announcements. Under normal circumstances, assignment work submitted past the due date will receive a multiplicative grade deduction equal to

[how late it was submitted] / [10 hours], with a maximum penalty of 100% [relative] deduction at 10 hours past the due date. Late test lab or exam lab submissions will not be accepted.

#### 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.
    - a. **Normal MSAF relief policy for this course is covered in the assessment section.**
  - 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 or 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.