

4PP3  
Plasma Physics Applications  
Fall 2019/20  
Course Outline

CALENDAR/COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introductory course on plasma physics with emphasis on occurrence of plasmas in nature, and applications of plasmas in thermonuclear fusion and other engineering disciplines and on occurrence of plasmas in nature.

This course is a reading course.

PRE-REQUISITES AND ANTI-REQUISITES

Prerequisite(s): Registration in the final level of an Engineering Physics program and ENGPYS 2A04, or PHYS 2B03 and 2BB3

INSTRUCTOR OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. A.Buijs  
JHE A325  
[Buijsa@mcmaster.ca](mailto:Buijsa@mcmaster.ca)  
ext. 24925

Office Hours:  
by appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANT OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

None

COURSE WEBSITE/ALTERNATE METHODS OF COMMUNICATION

<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the fundamental physics behind plasmas
- Perform simple calculations on plasmas in electric and magnetic fields.
- Recognize areas of application of plasma physics in Engineering

MATERIALS AND FEES

**Texts:**

The main text for this course is: "Plasma Physics: An Introduction to Laboratory, Space, and Fusion Plasmas" by Alexander Piel. This book is available online:

[https://discovery.mcmaster.ca/iii/encore/record/C\\_Rb3448657\\_Spiel%20plasma%20physics\\_Orightresult\\_U\\_X\\_2?lang=eng&suite=def](https://discovery.mcmaster.ca/iii/encore/record/C_Rb3448657_Spiel%20plasma%20physics_Orightresult_U_X_2?lang=eng&suite=def)

The course will fall back on a variety of other texts, including the notes from the lectures. Useful books are:

1. "Principles of Plasma Physics for Engineers and Scientists", U.S. Inan and M. Golkowski, Cambridge University Press, 2011.
2. "Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion", Vol. 1 by F. F. Chen, Plenum Press, 1984.
3. "Principles of Fusion Energy", A.A. Harms et al. (McMaster), World Scientific, 2000.
4. "Plasma Physics, an Introductory Course", ed. By R. Denby, Cambridge University Press, 1993.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

The course is three hours per week. The first hour will constitute a lecture on a subject in the course. During the second hour, assignments pertaining to the first hour will be performed. The assignments will be handed in and marked. The third hour is dedicated to self-study: in it, we will discuss how to study a subject by reading. Each student will choose a topic, read about it, analyse it and prepare a presentation. Lastly, each student will perform a calculation of a plasma system with MatLab/Octave.

If logistically possible, one lab will be performed (measuring the I-V characteristic of a plasma)

Class attendance is mandatory.

**ASSESSMENT**

Component	Weight
Assignments	30%
Calculation	30%
Self-study and presentation	40%
Total	100%

**ACCREDITATION LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Not applicable

**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.

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.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

The following illustrates only four 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.
4. Allowing others to copy one's work.

#### ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contact by phone at 905.525.9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail at [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

#### NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT ABSENCE AND SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC WORK

1. The [McMaster Student Absence Form](#) is a self-reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences DUE TO MINOR MEDICAL SITUATIONS that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Please note this tool cannot be used during any final examination period.
2. You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your Instructor immediately (NORMALLY WITHIN TWO WORKING DAYS) regarding the nature of the accommodation. Relief for missed academic work is not guaranteed.
3. If you are absent for reasons other than medical reasons, for more than 3 days, or exceed 1 request per term you MUST visit the Associate Dean's Office (JHE/H301). You may be required to provide supporting documentation.
4. This form must be submitted during the period of absence or the following day, and is only valid for academic work missed during this period of absence.

5. It is the prerogative of the instructor of the course to determine the appropriate relief for missed term work in his/her course.
6. You should expect to have academic commitments Monday through Saturday but not on Sunday or statutory holidays. If you require an accommodation to meet a religious obligation or to celebrate an important religious holiday, you may submit the Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO) Form to the Associate Dean's Office. You can find all paperwork needed here: <https://www.eng.mcmaster.ca/programs/academic-advising>

#### NOTICE REGARDING POSSIBLE COURSE MODIFICATION

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

#### TURNITIN.COM STATEMENT

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/>.

#### ON-LINE STATEMENT FOR COURSES REQUIRING ONLINE ACCESS OR WORK

In this course, we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, 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 this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

#### REFERENCE TO RESEARCH ETHICS

The two principles underlying integrity in research in a university setting are these: a researcher must be honest in proposing, seeking support for, conducting, and reporting research; a researcher must respect the rights of others in these activities. Any departure from these principles will diminish the integrity of the research enterprise. This policy applies to all those conducting research at or under the aegis of McMaster University. It is incumbent upon all members of the university community to practice and to promote ethical behaviour. To see the Policy on Research

Ethics at McMaster University, please go to  
<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/faculty/Conduct/ResearchEthicsPolicy.pdf>.