

ME 4301-007: Power Plant Engineering
Fall 2013
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department
The University of Texas at Arlington

Power Plant Engineering is a new elective class that teaches the fundamental thermodynamics and heat transfer principles behind design and optimization of power generation systems. There will be a significant emphasis on component and system design. This class will cover a number of power plant types, including coal/gas fired power plants, hydroelectric power plants, nuclear power plants, solar power plants, etc. Concepts learnt in this class may be helpful for an engineering career in power plants, oil, gas and other related industries.

Class location and timing: Mon Weds Fri 9:00am – 9:50am, NH109

Class Website: elearn.uta.edu (Blackboard)

Instructor: Dr. Ankur Jain

Instructor's Office: Engineering Lab Building (ELB), Rm 203

Email Address (*primary means of communication outside class*): jaina@uta.edu

Phone Number: 817-272-9338

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00am-9:45am, ELB-203

Course Content: Refresher of thermodynamics and heat transfer, Power cycles, Fuels and combustion, Boilers, Turbines, Condensers, Nuclear Power Plants, Hydroelectric Power Plants, Solar Power Plants, Energy Storage.

Textbook: Material for the class will be sourced from a number of sources. Class notes should be sufficient.

Important Dates: 9-Sep – Census Date; 30-Oct – Last Day to Drop Class; 23-Oct and 18-Nov – No class (Instructor on travel. Make-up class TBA); 2-Sep – No class (Labor Day), 28-Nov – No class (Thanksgiving); 6-Dec – Final Project Due.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Number of Lectures	Topics
2	General introduction
2	Refresher of thermodynamics and heat transfer

2	Power cycles
5	Fuels and combustion
3	Boiler design
5	Turbine design
3	Condenser design
4	Combined cycle power plants
4	Nuclear power plants
4	Hydroelectric power plants
2	Solar power plants
2	Energy storage
2	Wrap-up and review
3	Final project presentations
2	Exams

The schedule may undergo minor tweaks based on class needs and requirements.

Quizzes and Exams: Two exams will be conducted during class hours. Dates will be announced well in advance. Around 4-5 quizzes will be given during class time for in-campus students. Quizzes may be unannounced. One quiz score will be dropped for grade calculations.

Homework Assignments: Homeworks are a key medium of learning in this course. Homeworks are expected to be worked upon individually, unless specified otherwise. Around 6-7 homework assignments will be given. Homeworks are expected to be turned in by the deadline. There will be a 10% penalty per day for late submission. Homework will not be accepted more than three days after due date. Prior arrangements must be made with the instructor if your homework is expected to be late due to medical or other extenuating reasons. Electronic copies of homeworks will not be accepted, except for remote students.

Final Project: Students are expected to team up in twos for a final project. The final project will comprise a detailed research into one particular aspect of power plant engineering. The teams may decide their final project topics in consultation with the instructor. The teams will give a ten minute presentation in class, and will turn in a written report, due Dec 6.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. It is easy to lose track of the material and get completely lost if you miss too many classes. Please attend all classes.

Grading Policy: Final score will be calculated based on the following weights: Final Project – 15%, Homeworks – 15%, Exam 1 – 20%, Exam 2 – 30%, Quizzes – 20%. Tentative final grade policy is as follows: A=85%+, B=75-85, C=60-75, D=50-60, F=50 or below.

Calculator Policy: Only nonprogrammable calculators with basic computational features, such as arithmetic and transcendental functions will be allowed during exams.

Use of Laptops Policy: Please do not use laptops and other personal electronics for any purpose other than taking notes. In particular, please refrain from texting!

Other Notes:

1. **Classroom etiquette:** Please be on time for the class. Working on laptops/cellphones, texting, working on other courses, etc. are not permitted.
2. **Two-way interaction:** It is very boring to teach and learn if students do not ask questions! Asking questions during lectures is highly encouraged. This is an applied class, with ample scope for lots of discussions.
3. **E-mail communication:** E-mail is the preferred means for communicating with the instructor outside class. To ensure that emails are read and responded to promptly, please include 'ME4301' in the subject line. Please use your UTA email address.
4. **Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/ses/fao>).
5. **Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.
6. **Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work

submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

7. **Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to resources@uta.edu, or visiting www.uta.edu/resources.
8. **Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.
9. **Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.
10. **Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is marked in Red Signs in the class. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

Emergency Procedures for Disabled Personnel

If the disabled person cannot safely evacuate the building, one person should stay with the disabled individual while another person reports his/her location to the University Police. Hearing impaired and visually impaired persons need only one person each to notify them of a fire alarm or guide them to safe escape routes during an evacuation.

After evacuating employees and students have cleared all stairways, disabled persons should be assisted to the stairwell landings to await emergency personnel. All doors to the stairwells must be kept closed during this time.

Environmental Health & Safety would like to offer the following reminders to those who are disabled or have special needs:

- Take control without depending on others to take the first step.
- Don't be afraid to let others know you need assistance.
- Don't hesitate to communicate what your special needs are in order to make the evacuation easier and safer for you and for your assistants.
- Communicate with those who can help as soon as you are able by dialing 3003 to campus Police.
- Plan ahead. Be prepared. Know what you are going to do before an emergency arises. Make a plan and then test it. Determine what your alternatives are.
- When you enter an unfamiliar building, look it over and locate the most available telephones, note horizontal exits and ramps, note exit signs and enclosed stairwells determine if landings are large enough), note rooms that would make good areas of refuge, and note the location of fire alarm pull stations.
- Never take an elevator in a building on fire.
- Don't delay your evacuation or communication to evacuate. Speaking with someone over the telephone will help to keep you calm.

11. Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Good Luck with MAE4301 and all your other endeavors this semester!