

Course Syllabus – Fall 2013
CE 5370: EXPERIMENTAL SOIL MECHANICS
TR 8:00 – 9:20 AM
Room NH 203

Instructor: Laureano R. Hoyos, Ph.D., P.E.

Office Location: NH 441

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Office Hours: TWR (10:00 AM – 12:30 PM)

Course Objective: To provide a thorough understanding of both conventional and advanced testing techniques for the characterization of key stress-strain-strength-stiffness properties of soil materials in the laboratory: one-dimensional consolidation, consolidation-swell, accelerometer resonant column, proximator resonant column, conventional triaxial, ring shear, and true triaxial testing (time permitting).

Prerequisites: CE 3343 (Soil Mechanics), or consent of instructor.

Reference Textbook: NOT REQUIRED. (Class notes will be provided by Instructor.)

Major Assignments and Examinations: A series of homework assignments, one midterm exam, and one comprehensive final exam. All homework assignments must be turned in at the start of the class period in which they are due. Failure to do so will constitute a grade of zero for the homework assignment in question. One week of advanced notice will be provided in scheduling the midterm exam. The final exam will be given according to the university's published final exams schedule. Unexcused failure to appear for an exam at the scheduled time will constitute a grade of zero in that exam.

Laboratory Sessions: The course involves a few sessions and demonstrations in the laboratory, during which the students may be required to collect and process experimental data by themselves. Attendance to each laboratory session/demo is mandatory. Unexcused failure to appear for a lab session/demo will constitute a grade of zero in the assigned homework corresponding to that session(s). All lab sessions/demos will be scheduled on-campus and within regular class meeting times.

Grading Policy: Arithmetic average of all assigned homeworks (20%), Midterm exam (40%), Final exam (40%). Final Grading Scale: A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69, F: 59 or less.

Attendance Policy: Class attendance and punctuality are expected. (No special accommodations will be made for incomplete or missed assignments and/or exams due to unexcused absences.)

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. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. 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. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Americans With Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112: The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272 3364.

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.

Grade Grievance Policy: Grade grievances will be handled according to the policy described in the College of Engineering portion of the Catalog.

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at 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. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817 272 6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources for more information.

Electronic Communication Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington. To obtain your NetID or for logon assistance, visit <https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/>. If you are unable to resolve your issue from the Self-Service website, contact the Helpdesk at helpdesk@uta.edu.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations is designated as Final Review Week. During this week, no new assignments will be given; however, previously assigned work may have a completion date during this week. In addition, no portion of the final examination shall be administered during the Final Review Week. Classes are held as scheduled during this week and the material covered in lectures during this week may be included in the final examination.

Make-Up Exam Policy: No make-up exams will be given except for medical or other similar hardships where advanced arrangements are made with the instructor; or in case of non-selective medical emergencies with appropriate physician’s note or documentation. Other than circumstances described above, failure to take the exam at the scheduled time will constitute a grade of zero in the exam.

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 (stairwells), which is located next to the elevators. 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.

Librarian to Contact: Sylvia George-Williams, Science and Technology Library, sylvia@uta.edu, (817) 272 7519.

Graduate Student Learning Outcomes:

- Ability to command basic and applied knowledge in geotechnical engineering.
- Ability to conduct independent and original studies, including gathering of information to propose, create, document the study and its resolution.
- Ability to critique and synthesize literature, review results and to apply this knowledge in developing new ideas; in designing and evaluating scientific investigations; and in assessing, interpreting and understanding data.
- Demonstrate mastery of the subject matter at a deeper theoretical and applied level beyond the fundamental knowledge gained in the undergraduate courses.
- Ability to present scientific results in written and oral formats to various forums.
- Demonstrate interest in pursuing lifelong learning.