

ASEN 3712 – Fall 2025

Structures

Instructors: Prof. Mahmoud I. Hussien
Office: AERO 354
Email: mih@colorado.edu

Office Hours*:

Tuesday 12:30 pm-1:30 pm (Room AERO 302)

Thursday 11:30 am-12:30 pm (Room AERO 302)

* To discuss personal matters, students may request a one-to-one meeting with the instructor

Teaching Assistants:	Prajit Rawte	Prajit.Rawte@colorado.edu
	Office hours:	Wednesday 3 pm-4 pm (Room AERO 302) Thursday 5:30 pm -7 pm (Study Hall AERO 111)
	Maxine Stoenescu	Maxine.Stoenescu@colorado.edu
	Office hours:	Tuesday 5:30 pm -7 pm (Study Hall AERO 111) Thursday 5:30 pm -7 pm (Study Hall AERO 111)
	Noah Hassett	Noah.Hassett@colorado.edu
	Office hours:	Tuesday 5:30 pm -7 pm (Study Hall AERO 111) Wednesday 4 pm-5 pm (Room AERO 302)

Office hours compiled: Tuesday 12:30 pm-1:30 pm (Room AERO 302) – Prof. Hussein
Tuesday 5:30 pm to 7 pm (Study Hall, AERO 111) – Maxine and Noah
Wednesday 3 pm-4 pm (Room AERO 302) – Prajit
Wednesday 4 pm-5 pm (Room AERO 302) – Noah
Thursday 11:30 am-12:30 pm (Room AERO 302) – Prof. Hussein
Thursday 5:30 pm to 7 pm (Study Hall, AERO 111) – Maxine and Prajit

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM, AERO 120

Class website: CANVAS: <https://canvas.colorado.edu/>
ASEN 3712-001 Structures

Class e-mail list: Through Canvas only

Online discussion forum: Slack, Join using this link:
https://join.slack.com/t/asen3712fall2025/shared_invite/zt-3br9t7xaa-zIrV4Dgu~4tLYbKZCHU3~A

Note: All technical questions must be asked during office hours or posted on public channels in Slack first. The instructor and the TFs will not reply to these questions over email or private messages on Slack and Canvas. Students are **strongly**

encouraged to answer each other's questions. This is a great way to work together to solve problems, and not have to wait for an instructor or TF response.

Texts: Lecture notes are posted on Canvas

Course Objectives: The main objective of the course is to introduce modern mechanics of materials and structural analysis techniques based on understanding of the development of internal forces, stresses, and deformations. These are essential to the design and verification of advanced aerospace structures, components, and assemblies. Study of fundamental concepts in energy methods and structural stability are included. The course also offers an introduction to matrix and finite-element methods for skeletal (truss and frame) structures, a topic highly relevant to aerospace engineering.

Major Course Topics and Schedule (tentative):

Week No.	Week of:	Topic
1	08/18/2024	Stress and Strain
2	08/25/2024	Stress and Strain – Material laws
3	09/01/2024	Material laws – 2D Elasticity
4	09/08/2024	Stress Transformation – Pressure Vessels
5	09/15/2024	Torsion
6	09/22/2024	Torsion
7	09/29/2024	Torsion – Energy Methods
8	10/06/2024	Energy Methods
9	10/13/2024	Energy Methods – Finite Element Method
10	10/20/2024	Finite Element Method
11	10/27/2024	Finite Element Method
12	11/03/2024	Stability of Structures
13	11/10/2024	Stability of Structures
14	11/17/2024	Stability of Structures
15	11/24/2024	Fall Break
16	12/01/2024	Course review

Coursework consists of reading assignments, in-class clicker quizzes, Canvas quizzes, homework assignments, two midterm exams, and one final exam. Attendance at lectures is expected but not required. Exams cover all material including lectures, quizzes, and homework.

Reading Assignments: Reading assignments (in the form of typed lecture notes) are to be completed before the lecture/discussion. In-class clicker quizzes will often test material assigned as reading. The lecture/discussions should help to clarify and supplement what students have read.

Homework: Homework assignments are given most weeks on Thursday and are due a week later, as specified in the assignment. No homework assignments are due in the week of midterm exams. Assignments generally cover 3 to 5 problems and are designed to help students become proficient in a subject. Before doing any homework, students should read the posted lectures notes and classroom notes

and try to follow worked-out examples. This should give the student an idea of the principles involved and the solution method.

Written work should be neat and readable with adequate space and margins. Messy work will be left ungraded and a zero-score recorded. The main and essential steps of the solution approach need to be shown; failing to do so will result in a lower score. The final result needs to be indicated by an arrow, underline or box. Multiple answers when one is required will be counted as incorrect. Copying material from any resource (including solutions manuals, websites, and AI-systems) and submitting it as one's own are considered plagiarism and are an Honor Code violation. Searching for help in a solution-repository website is also considered plagiarism.

Computer Use: Several assignments may require or benefit from computer access and basic programming skills in languages such as MATLAB and Excel. Students will have access to the PILOT and co-PILOT computers to do computer work, once they have completed the PILOT orientation.

Grading Guidelines:

In-class Quizzes	10%
Canvas Quizzes	10%
Homework	10%
2 Midterm Exams	40% (= 2 times 20%)
Final Exam	30%
	100%

If the lowest midterm score (and only the lowest midterm score) is lower than the score of the final exam, that midterm grade is dropped, and the weighting of the final is increased from 30% to 50%.

Notes:

- In-class quizzes gauge the student's level of preparation for lecture and the conceptual understanding of course material. They will measure a combination of participation and accuracy in the answers. No makeup quizzes are offered, but the lowest three clicker quizzes will be dropped.
- Canvas quizzes gauge the student's understanding of basic concepts. They can be taken as many times as wanted; only the highest score will be considered.
- Each homework assignment includes a set of several problems. The assignment is partially graded for completeness (25pts), while one randomly selected problem is graded in detail for technical content and presentation (25pts). Thus, the final score for each homework set is out of a total of 50pts and computed based upon the numeric breakdown below:

$$\text{HW } \frac{\text{Score}}{50} = 25\text{pts (Rand. Problem)} + 25\text{pts} \times \frac{\# \text{ of Remaining Problems Completed}}{\# \text{ of Remaining Problems in Set}}$$

Solutions for all homework problems are posted on CANVAS after the due date. The homework assignments with the two lowest scores are dropped. Homework needs to be turned in by the

specified due date. All homework should be submitted electronically via Gradescope; see information below. Late homework will not be accepted.

- Midterms cover material discussed in the weeks prior to the exam. They provide a gauge to determine what an individual student has learned. The midterm exams are given at regular lecture hours in AERO 120. All midterm exams are closed-book, but a crib sheet is permitted. The maximum number of pages of the crib sheet will be announced separately for each midterm. No makeup exams will be offered.
- The final exam spans the entire course but with additional emphasis on material covered since the last midterm.
- All your scores and grades will be posted on CANVAS and need to be checked within **2 weeks** after they are posted; requests to change a score on CANVAS need to be made within this period. These requests must be made directly in Gradescope.
- Graded homework is returned via Gradescope; see information below. Students should check the assignment for grading correctness and request a change of score via Gradescope if incorrect grading is found.
- Midterms will be scanned and added to Gradescope. Students can request to have the paper version of the exam returned. Once they are returned, only the scanned version will be used for grading.
- About Gradescope: Students will receive an email to sign up. Students will need to upload their assignment. In case of hand-written assignments, students can use a smartphone or use scanners at the CU library. Should a student not have access to either, please, contact the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester. Instructions on how to upload assignments can be found at help.gradescope.com.

Instructions on uploading assignments can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMPoby5g_nE.

Instructions on viewing scores and feedback after an assignment is graded can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=TOHCkI12mh0.

Letter Grading Scheme:

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

Letter	Grade Percent Grade	4.00 Scale
A	93.00 – 100.00	4.00
A-	90.00 – 92.99	3.67
B+	87.00 – 89.99	3.33
B	83.00 – 86.99	3.00
B-	80.00 – 82.99	2.67
C+	77.00 – 79.99	2.33
C	73.00 – 76.99	2.00
C-	70.00 – 72.99	1.67
D+	67.00 – 69.00	1.33
D	63.00 – 66.99	1.00
F	Below 63.00	0.00

Exam Times and Locations:

- Midterm 1: Thursday, October 16th, during lecture time.
- Midterm 2: Thursday, November 20th, during lecture time.
- Final exam: Thursday, December 11, 7:30 pm-10 pm, Location: Classroom.

Course Policies and Procedures:

1. The instructors and TFs will reply to email questions only in business hours and during weekdays. Emails received 24 hours or less before the exams or any due dates are not guaranteed to be responded to.
2. The instructor may make changes to the weekly course schedule and the syllabus based on occurring events that require different dispositions. The instructor will give sufficient advanced notice through announcements in class and posting on CANVAS. Changes to this syllabus and assignments may be announced at any time during class periods. The instructor will post the current syllabus and assignments on CANVAS. Both are dated in the footnote.
3. This course exclusively uses CANVAS to send out announcements, to provide comments to students daily on class activities, and to provide general information about course assignments. It is strongly recommended that all students set up their CANVAS account such that they automatically receive a notification about new announcements and updates to the CANVAS course page.
4. Homework needs to be uploaded to Gradescope (<https://www.gradescope.com/>). Students should create an account on Gradescope using their CU Boulder email address.
5. No makeup will be offered for lecture quizzes, homework, Canvas quizzes, or exams. A zero-score is recorded for each missed lecture or Canvas quiz, homework, and exam. Note that the two homework assignments with the lowest scores are dropped. If the lowest midterm score (and only the lowest midterm score) is lower than the score of the final exam, that midterm grade is dropped, and the weighting of the final is increased from 30% to 50%.
6. **Classroom Behavior:** Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy. For more information, see the [classroom behavior policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).
7. **Requirements for Infectious Diseases:** Members of the CU Boulder community and visitors to campus must follow university, department, and building health and safety requirements and all public health orders to reduce the risk of spreading infectious diseases.

The CU Boulder campus is currently mask optional. However, if masks are again required in classrooms, students who fail to adhere to masking requirements will be asked to leave class. Students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution. Students who require accommodation because a disability

prevents them from fulfilling safety measures related to infectious disease will be asked to follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

For those who feel ill and think you might have COVID-19 or if you have tested positive for COVID-19, please stay home and follow the [further guidance of the Public Health Office](#). For those who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms and have not tested positive for COVID-19, you do not need to stay home.

8. **Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation:** [Disability Services](#) determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so your needs can be addressed. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or required medical isolation for which you require accommodation, please contact the instructors as soon as possible to discuss possible avenues. Also see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.
9. **Preferred Student Names and Pronouns:** CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information does not always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.
10. **Honor Code:** All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: honor@colorado.edu, 303-492-5550. Students found responsible for violating the [Honor Code](#) will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.
11. **Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation:** CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits [protected-class](#) discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating violence or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. These behaviors harm individuals and our community. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who believe they have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and support resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive an outreach from OIEC about their options for addressing a concern and the support resources available. To learn more about reporting and support resources for a variety of issues, visit [Don't Ignore It](#).

12. **Religious Holidays:** Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please contact the instructor in the first two weeks to find alternatives to possible conflicts with exams and other major assignments. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.
13. **Mental Health and Wellness.** The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health, or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7. Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through [Academic Live Care](#). The [Academic Live Care](#) site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.
14. **CU Community of Care Syllabus Statement.** CU Boulder is committed to a community of care in which students are supported by faculty and staff throughout their college journey. You don't have to face academic challenges alone – CU and the college are here to help you learn and succeed in your coursework and campus life. Part of this community of care is your connection to faculty and staff across campus. Our college promotes and hopes you will connect with faculty or staff who may reach out during your educational journey at CU.
15. **Course Alerts Syllabus Statement.** This course participates in the CU Course Alert process to help connect you with support resources and identify your barriers to success (colorado.edu/engineering-advising/coursealerts). If you receive a course alert for this class, please plan to *(identify and input the specific action you'd like the student to take for each class here, i.e., schedule a meeting with you, attend office hours, send you an email, connect with a TA, etc.)*.

Final Comments

The grading scheme in this course is not assigned to reward or punish. It is designed to indicate the student's level of competency compared to the standards set by the AES faculty. Does the student meet the minimum level of competency? Does the student exceed the minimum? Is the student below the minimum? This should be indicated by the final grade. The instructors are professionals and it is their job to set and maintain standards. The instructors are expected to use their education, experience, and interactions with industry, government laboratories, others in academia, etc., to determine the content of these standards. Because the CU Aerospace Engineering Sciences program is accredited by ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology), the AES curriculum meets that board's requirements. As with any other professionals (doctors, lawyers, etc.) the students must trust that the instructors know what they are doing and that they are obliged to uphold standards.

The final grade indicates the student's readiness to continue to the next level of courses. Meeting the minimum requirements indicates that the student is prepared to continue at least at the minimum level required for the next in the sequence of courses. Exceeding the minimum means the student is ready to enter the next course and that the student has mastery of material beyond the minimum, i.e., the student shows some level of proficiency.

In addition to technical competence, professionalism, initiative, and self-sufficiency are expected from students. Deadlines (for assignments, for requests, for giving notice of conflicts) will be enforced, if

nothing else to ensure fairness among students. Students are encouraged to attend office hours and receive all the help needed to complete assignments; however, they will be expected to come with specific questions after having already attempted to solve the assignments.

However, ...

We understand that various unforeseen circumstances happen in life. If you have an emergency (loss of job, sickness in family, mental health issues, other unforeseen and significant difficulties), please let the instructors know as soon as possible. Even if you are just overwhelmed by your life situation, please let us know as soon as possible. We expect professional, serious, focused students, not robots. But we can only help you if you give us enough warning, and we can act when it is still possible to do so (not, say, after the solution for an assignment is posted). So, if something happens, let us know, and we will figure something out.

Let's try to have a productive and enjoyable semester.