INTRODUCTION TO FINITE ELEMENTS – MANE 4240/CIVL 4240

Course Instructor: Suvranu De
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TA: Kartik Josyula < josyuk@rpi.edu>
Office Hours: Monday 4:30-5:30 pm, Thu 3:30-4:30 pm
Location: JEC 1040

Course website: http://www.rpi.edu/~des/IFEA2017Fall.html
Practicum website: https://afsws.rpi.edu/AFS/dept/eng/cax/mane4240_ife/

Course objective:
The objective of this course is to teach in a unified manner the fundamentals of the finite element method for the analysis of engineering problems arising in solids and structures. The course will emphasize the solution of real life problems using the finite element method underscoring the importance of the choice of the proper mathematical model, discretization techniques and element selection criteria. Finally, students will learn how to judge the quality of the numerical solution and improve accuracy in an efficient manner by optimal selection of solution variables.

Learning outcomes:
By the end of this course, students should be able to
(3-a): Demonstrate an ability to apply knowledge of mathematics, science and engineering to the analysis of simple elastic structures using the finite element method.
(3-b): Demonstrate the ability to design and conduct numerical experiments as well as analyze and interpret the results.
(3-e) Demonstrate an ability to identify, formulate, and solve engineering problems using the finite element method.

Text:
Title: A First Course in the Finite Element Method
Author: Daryl Logan
Year Published: 2011
Edition: Fifth
Publisher: Cengage Learning

NOTE: Lecture notes are posted on the course website. The classes will follow these notes closely. While homework exercises will be assigned from the course text, it is expected that students have read and thoroughly understood the material in the lecture notes as these will serve as the primary reading material.

Other reference text:
Finite Element Procedures in Engineering Analysis, K. J. Bathe, Prentice Hall
A First Course in Finite Elements, J. Fish and T. Belytschko, Wiley

**Prerequisites by Topic:** Basics of Linear Algebra; Introductory calculus (differentiation, integration, differential equations); Computer aided design; Engineering statics

**Topics:**
- Introduction to finite element analysis
- Direct stiffness approach: Spring elements
- Bar and truss elements
- Introduction to differential equations and strong formulation
- Principle of minimum potential energy and weak formulation
- Finite element formulation of linear elastostatics
- Constant strain triangle
- Quadrilateral element
- Practical considerations in FEM modeling
- Convergence of analysis results
- Higher order elements
- Isoparametric formulation
- Numerical integration

**Grading policy:**
The student’s course grade is based on the performance in
- **Home works** (15%). Please make an effort to write clearly **without omitting steps** in calculations. Only **neatly written** home works will be graded. The two lowest grades will be dropped (EXCEPT HW#1). However, late home works (on any ground) will **NOT** be accepted.
- **Practicum exercises** (10%). One exercise per practicum worth 2 points each, to be handed in within a week of assignment.
- A **course project** to be handed in by noon of **12th December** (25%)
- **Two in-class quizzes** (2x25%) on 13th October (covering Lec 1-9) and 12th December (covering Lec 10-21). Grade challenges must be done within a week of the date the tests are handed back to the students.
- There will be **NO FINAL EXAMS** in this course.
- Grade modifiers that will be used in this course:
  - A=4.0, A- =3.67, B+=3.33, B=3.0, B-=2.67, C+=2.33, C=2.0, C-=1.67, D+=1.33, D=1.0, F=0.0 (Fail)
  - There will be no D- grade. The minimum passing grade will be D.

**NOTES:**
1. All write-ups MUST contain your name and RIN
2. There will be **reading quizzes** (announced **AS WELL AS unannounced**) on a regular basis and points from these quizzes will be added on to the homework

**Linear Algebra prerequisite:**
Basic knowledge of linear algebra (matrix analysis) is necessary for this course. Read Appendix A of your text and the first lecture notes (Introduction) for a reading quiz next class.

**PRACTICUM:**
There are 5 classes that are designated as “Practicum”. You will need to download and install NX 10 on your laptops and bring them to class on these days. Each class will cover practical aspects of finite element analysis. At the end of the class you will be assigned a single problem, which you will need to hand in to the TA within a week of assignment. No late submissions will be entertained.

For installation and setup of NX software, visit the FAQ (RCS login required):
https://afsws.rpi.edu/AFS/dept/eng/cax/cad/NX_FAQ_current.pdf

If you customize your installation of NX, please follow the CAD+CAE installation options as outlined in the following document:
https://afsws.rpi.edu/AFS/dept/eng/cax/cad/nx_11_install_features.pdf

**COURSE PROJECT:**
In this project you will be required to
- choose an engineering system
- develop a mathematical model for the system
- develop the finite element model
- solve the problem using commercial software
- present a convergence plot and discuss whether the mathematical model you chose gives you physically meaningful results.
- refine the model if necessary.
Projects that demonstrate intelligent choice of models to solve comparatively difficult problems are encouraged.

Sample projects (from previous years):
1. Analysis of a rocker arm
2. Analysis of a bicycle crank-pedal assembly
3. Design and analysis of a "portable stair climber"
4. Analysis of a gear train
5. Gear tooth stress in a wind-up clock
6. Analysis of a gearbox assembly
7. Analysis of an artificial knee
8. Forces acting on the elbow joint
9. Analysis of a soft tissue tumor system
10. FEM analysis of proximal femur computed tomography scans

**Course project logistics:**

1. For the course project, you are required to form groups of 2 and email the TA by 22nd September. If you need assistance regarding teaming up, please let us know in advance.
2. Choose a tractable problem that you can analyze in depth in the very limited time available and submit a one-page project proposal by 17th October. Projects will go on a first come first served basis. Please proceed to work on the project ONLY if approved by the instructor (zero credits otherwise).
3. Submit a one-page progress report by 10th November. This will carry 10% of the project grade.
4. Submit a project report (typed) by noon of 12th December. This report should include:
   a. Introduction
   b. Problem statement
   c. Analysis
5. Project grades will be allotted to the group and **NOT individually**.

**Collaboration and academic integrity:**

Student-teacher relationships are built on trust. For example, students must trust that teachers have made appropriate decisions about the structure and content of the courses they teach, and teachers must trust that the assignments that the students turn in are their own. Acts, which violate this trust, undermine the educational process. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.

The [Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) defines various forms of Academic Dishonesty and you should make yourself familiar with these. In addition, attempts to commit dishonesty, or to assist in the commission or attempt of such act, are also violations of the academic dishonesty policy. If found in violation of the academic dishonesty policy, you may be subject to two types of penalties. The instructor administers an academic (grade) penalty, and you may also enter the institute judicial process and be subject to such additional sanctions as: warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, and alternative actions as defined in the current Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities. The following specific collaboration rules apply to this class:

1. You are encouraged to collaborate in the solution of HW problems, but **submit independent solutions that are **NOT** copies of each other.** If you have collaborated in the solution of your homework, please indicate names of the student/s you have collaborated with. If you are found in violation of this policy, **you will receive a grade of zero for the first violation and a grade of ‘F’ in the course for the second violation.** The same rule applies if you copy from solutions of homework problems distributed in previous years or if you submit previously corrected homework.

2. Groups of 2 are allowed to collaborate for the projects.

3. Collaboration during quizzes is strictly prohibited. **Any violation will result in a grade of zero for that quiz.**

**Mobile Devices:** All mobile devices (cell/smart phones, computers, pagers, etc.) must be stored securely away during lecture and are not be used unless specifically directed otherwise by the instructor. Use of (or **ANY** interaction with) a mobile device during an exam without explicit permission of the instructor will be interpreted as the illicit transfer of exam data, will be considered an act of cheating and will be treated as such.

If you have any questions concerning this policy before submitting an assignment, please ask for clarification.

**Student Complaint Process:**

In compliance with Middle States Accreditation, there is now a central complaint **procedure** for students. These processes apply to all students regardless of school, status, classification, type or location. Complaints not addressed using this process include:

1. Complaints related to alleged violations of Rensselaer’s Student Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures, which also includes complaints regarding Title IX violations, available from the Institute’s Sexual Misconduct Awareness **website**

2. Substantive complaints regarding the quality of the institution or its academic programs
which should be directed to the Institute’s Accrediting Body: Middle States Commission on Higher Education.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lec #</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lec #</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-Sep</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>5-Sep</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Linear Algebra miniquiz (Appendix A + Notes) Springs</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-Sep</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Springs</td>
<td>12-Sep</td>
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<td>Practicum #1: CAD Refresher &amp; CAE Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-Sep</td>
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<td>Springs</td>
<td>19-Sep</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bar elements HW1 &amp; Pract. #1 due</td>
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<td>22-Sep</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Truss analysis <em>Decide project groups</em></td>
<td>26-Sep</td>
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<td>Practicum #2: Truss Example Post-Processing</td>
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<td>29-Sep</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Intro to BVP</td>
<td>3-Oct</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Energy principle Pract. #2 due</td>
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<td>6-Oct</td>
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<td>FE shape functions in 1D</td>
<td>10-Oct</td>
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<td>Monday schedule</td>
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<td>13-Oct</td>
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<td>Lectures 1-9</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>FE in 1D Proposal for project due</td>
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<td>20-Oct</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Numerical integration in 1D</td>
<td>24-Oct</td>
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<td>Practicum #3: 2D &amp; 3D Examples: Plate &amp; Bar</td>
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<td>27-Oct</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Elasticity review</td>
<td>31-Oct</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>FE for 2D elasticity Pract. #3 due</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Nov</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>The CST</td>
<td>7-Nov</td>
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<td>Practicum #4: Geometry Preparation, Meshing Considerations</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-Nov</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>The quadrilateral element (10.2, LN); <em>One page project report due</em></td>
<td>14-Nov</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Practical considerations in FE modeling HW6 &amp; Parc. # 4 due</td>
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<td>17-Nov</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Convergence</td>
<td>21-Nov</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Higher order elements HW7 due</td>
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<td>24-Nov</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving break</td>
<td>28-Nov</td>
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<td>Practicum #5: Contact &amp; Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-Dec</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Isoparametric formulation</td>
<td>5-Dec</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Isoparametric formulation Pract. #5 due</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-Dec</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Numerical integration in 2D</td>
<td>12-Dec</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lec # 10-21 Project due</td>
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*Notes:*
- *Decide project groups* should be considered in the context of the course schedule.
- HW2 due on 3-Oct indicates the assignment is due on that date.
- HW4 due on 24-Oct refers to the homework assignment due on that date.
- HW6 & Parc. # 4 due on 28-Nov signifies the homework and project due dates.
- HW7 due on 18-Nov highlights the due date for this homework assignment.
- HW8 due on 12-Dec indicates the homework assignment due on that date.