

Introduction to Aerospace Engineering

EAS 2011, Weil Hall Room 270

Fall 2025, M W F, 3rd period, 935-1025A

Modifications to this syllabus may be required during the semester. Any changes that are made will be reflected in a posted version of the syllabus and announced in class.

Instructor

Adjunct Professor **Daniel (Dan) W Plonk, MSME, MBA**

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-6250

NEB _____

Please contact through the Canvas website <https://elearning.ufl.edu>

Any emails to ufl email address must include EAS 2011 in the subject line

Office Hour

- MWF 1030-1130A

Learning Assistants

Trivikram Satharasi
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Adrian Gongora
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Om Parbadia
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TA Room: NEB 446

Course Description

Course Catalog: "Overview of aerospace engineering. Standard atmosphere, basic aerodynamics, airplane performance, stability and control, propulsion, and space flight." (Credits: 3)

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites

PHY 2048 (Physics w/Calculus 1) or PHY 2060 (Enriched Physics w/Calculus 1); minimum grade of C

Course Objectives

This course introduces aircraft and spacecraft vehicles. By the end of this course, you will:

- Know the basic principles of flight in the atmosphere: the physics of flight, and steady aircraft flight and performance.
- Know the basic principles of flight in space: the two-body problem, spacecraft orbits, orbital transfers, and orbital analysis of space missions.
- Be able to effectively communicate this technical knowledge while accounting for realistic economic constraints.

Materials and Supply Fees

None.

Professional Component (ABET)

This course contributes to the Aerospace Engineering student's aeronautical knowledge of: aerodynamics, propulsion, flight mechanics, and stability and control. This course contributes to the Aerospace Engineering student's astronautical knowledge of: orbital mechanics, space environment, attitude determination and control, and rocket propulsion. The content of this course is approximately 10% engineering design, 30% mathematics, and 60% engineering science.

Relation to Program Outcomes (ABET)

Outcome	Coverage
1. An ability to identify, formulate, and solve complex engineering problems by applying principles of engineering, science, and mathematics	High
2. An ability to apply engineering design to produce solutions that meet specified needs with consideration of public health, safety, and welfare, as well as global, cultural, social, environmental, and economic factors	
3. An ability to communicate effectively with a range of audiences	Low
4. An ability to recognize ethical and professional responsibilities in engineering situations and make informed judgments, which must consider the impact of engineering solutions in global, economic, environmental, and societal contexts	Low
5. An ability to function effectively on a team whose members together provide leadership, create a collaborative and inclusive environment, establish goals, plan tasks, and meet objectives	Low
6. An ability to develop and conduct appropriate experimentation, analyze and interpret data, and use engineering judgment to draw conclusions	
7. An ability to acquire and apply new knowledge as needed, using appropriate learning strategies	High

Coverage is given as high, medium, or low. An empty box indicates that this outcome is not part of the course.

Required Textbooks, Software, and Hardware

- N. Harris McClamroch, "Steady Aircraft Flight and Performance," Princeton University Press, ISBN: 9780691147192, 2011. **Will be delivered in PDF form**
- Howard D. Curtis, "Orbital Mechanics for Engineering Students," 4th Ed., Butterworth-Heinemann, ISBN: 9780081021330, 2020. **Will be delivered in PDF form**
- MATLAB (MathWorks), any recent release.
- Various handout materials provided digitally on Canvas.
- Scientific calculator (not your phone).
- It is important that you have your own laptop/mobile computer. Details are provided on the college and department websites:
<https://www.eng.ufl.edu/students/advising/fall-semester-checklist/computer-requirements/>
<https://mae.ufl.edu/students/undergraduate/computer-requirements/>

Alternate (Reference) Textbooks

- John D. Anderson, Jr., "Introduction to Flight," 8th Ed., 2016.
- Steven A. Brandt, Randall J. Stiles, John J. Bertin, Ray Whitford, "Introduction to Aeronautics: A Design Perspective," 3rd Ed., 2015.
- Roger R. Bate, Donald D. Mueller, Jerry E. White, "Fundamentals of Astrodynamics," Dover Publications, Inc., ISBN: 9780486600611, 1971.
- John E. Prussing, Bruce A. Conway, "Orbital Mechanics," 2nd Ed., 2012.

Important Dates

- Classes Begin: Aug 21 (Thu)
- Holidays/Reading Days: Sep 1 (Mon), Oct 17 (Fri), Nov 24-28 (Mon-Fri), Dec 5 (Fri)
- Classes End: Dec 3 (Wed)
- Classes Canceled: TBD
- Homework, quiz, and software tutorial dates stated in this syllabus will be confirmed in class
- **Quizzes will be held during the last 15 minutes of lecture**
- Project Due: Dec 3 (Wed) 11:59 PM
- Review for Midterm Exam: Oct 13 (Mon)
- Midterm Exam: Oct 16 (Thu) 8:20 PM – 10:10 PM
- Review for Final Exam: Dec 1, 3 (Mon, Wed)
- Final Exam: TBD

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. Click here to read the university attendance policies:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Attendance Policy

- Students are expected to attend all lectures.
- Absences may be excused with appropriate documentation.
- **Make-up Policy:** Instructor notifications are required in all circumstances. See <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications>. Note that “Instructors have the right to accept or reject the Instructor Notification.”
- **No quiz make-ups are permitted.** If an *excused* absence occurs on a quiz day, then that quiz will be omitted from the student’s total quiz score. Unexcused quizzes will receive zero.

Class Expectations

- The student is solely responsible for their education. The instructor is the guide to their understanding of the field.
- Cell phones, laptops, etc.: **under no circumstances will disruptions from electronic devices be tolerated. Students are expected to take either handwritten notes with pen/pencil and paper, or electronic notes with stylus and tablet.**
- **Electronic notes must be printed out if used as reference material on examinations.**
- Respect and disruption: the instructor and students will be always respectful. Classroom disruption of any kind will not be tolerated.
- **The principles of the Honor Code must be always adhered to.** Individual effort is required on homework assignments, quizzes, and exams. Groups will be treated as individuals for projects. Students are bound by the Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit, the following statement is either required or implied:

On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this homework/quiz/report/exam.

The Conduct Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>) specifies behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. You are obligated to report any academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or a TA.

Course Zero-Tolerance Policy: Any violation or suspected violation of the Honor Code by a student may result in that student receiving a grade of E for the course.

Homework

The purpose of homework is to learn and understand the material. **Students are responsible for performing and understanding the homework problems and solutions on their own.**

Software and Copyrighted Material Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing the use of software and the use of copyrighted material. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Quizzes and Exams

All quizzes are closed-book, closed-notes, closed-electronic devices. A scientific calculator (that is **not** your cell phone or laptop) will be permitted. **All exams are open-book, open-notes, closed-electronic devices except for a scientific calculator.**

Honorlock: Consistent with university policy, Honorlock may be used for course assessments and will be confirmed by the instructor. Please see <https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/teaching-and-technology-resources/online-proctoring/> for more information.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>). Students should share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

Commitment to a Safe and Inclusive Learning Environment

The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering values varied perspectives and lived experiences within our community and is committed to supporting the University's core values, including the elimination of discrimination. It is expected that every person in this class will treat one another with dignity and respect regardless of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information, and veteran status.

If you feel like your performance in class is being impacted by discrimination or harassment of any kind, please contact your instructor or any of the following:

- Your academic advisor or Undergraduate Program Coordinator, advising@mae.ufl.edu
- HWCoe Human Resources, 352-392-0904, student-support-hr@eng.ufl.edu
- Pam Dickrell, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 352-392-2177, pld@ufl.edu
- Toshikazu Nishida, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, 352-392-0943, nishida@eng.ufl.edu

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <https://registrar.ufl.edu/ferpa/>

Instructor-Initiated Course Recording

Lectures and office hours may be audio visually recorded by the instructor or TA for students who are unable to attend live, and for student reference. Online students who participate with their camera engaged or who utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to have your video or profile image recorded, ensure that your camera is off and that you do not use a profile image.

Likewise, online students who un-mute themselves to orally participate during class are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are unwilling to have your voice recorded, ensure that your mute button is activated and that you communicate exclusively using the “chat” feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. Similar to the above, in-class students who orally participate are also agreeing to have their voices recorded.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under University of Florida Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing Staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

COVID-19, Cold, Flu, and Other Contagious Respiratory Illnesses

- You are expected to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the wearing of approved face coverings during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the University of Florida Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions.
- Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.

Counseling and Wellness Center

<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, and 352-392-1575; and the University Police Department: 352-392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, Assault, or Violence

If you or a friend has been subjected to sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, or violence contact the Office of Title IX Compliance (<https://titleix.ufl.edu/>), located at Yon Hall Room 427, 1908 Stadium Road, 352-273-1094, title-ix@ufl.edu

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161.

University Police Department

352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Resources

E-learning Technical Support

352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>

Career Connections Center

Reitz Union, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>

Library Support

<https://uflib.ufl.edu/>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center

Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<https://academicresources.clas.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio

302 Tigert Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Students Complaints: On-Campus

<https://ombuds.ufl.edu/student/>

Students Complaints: Distance Learning

<https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>

Course Evaluation

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Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Evaluation of Grades and Grading Policy

The grading policy is at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Evaluation Mechanism on a Percent Basis

Homework (7)	14%
Quizzes (4)	12%
Project	10%
Midterm Exam	32%
Final Exam	32%

Homework

Students will submit solutions of the homework problems only via the course website. Students who turn in homework before the due date and time will have their homework graded. Not all homework problems may be graded, and a selection of problems may be randomly chosen for grading after the homework due date and time. Submitted homework that is partially- or fully-missing solutions to these chosen problems will not be eligible for full or partial credit for those problems, respectively, even if other non-chosen homework problems were completed. **Grading may be on completeness or on correctness.** However, it is the student's responsibility to check their solutions against posted homework solutions.

Exams

All students are expected to take all exams. If a student is unable to take an exam for unforeseeable reasons, then the other exams will count toward the percentage of the grade that makes up the exams if an appropriate DSO instructor notification is accepted.

Final Grade

Final grades may be calculated by the following table. For example, if a student earns 86.60% (Percent Grade Earned %GE = 86.60) then their grade point will be 3.33 (B+). %GE are rounded to the hundredths decimal place. For example, if a student earns 77.995% (Percent Grade Earned %GE = 77.995) it will be rounded up to 78.00%, and their grade point will be 2.67 (B-). Shifts in the grading table are at the discretion of the instructor.

Table 1. Grading Table. %GE = Percent Grade Earned.

Percentage Range	Grade Point
$92.00 \leq \%GE < 100.00 \Rightarrow A$	4.00
$88.00 \leq \%GE < 92.00 \Rightarrow A-$	3.67
$85.00 \leq \%GE < 88.00 \Rightarrow B+$	3.33
$81.00 \leq \%GE < 85.00 \Rightarrow B$	3.00
$78.00 \leq \%GE < 81.00 \Rightarrow B-$	2.67
$74.00 \leq \%GE < 78.00 \Rightarrow C+$	2.33
$71.00 \leq \%GE < 74.00 \Rightarrow C$	2.00
$67.00 \leq \%GE < 71.00 \Rightarrow C-$	1.67
$64.00 \leq \%GE < 67.00 \Rightarrow D+$	1.33
$61.00 \leq \%GE < 64.00 \Rightarrow D$	1.00
$60.00 \leq \%GE < 61.00 \Rightarrow D-$	0.67
$00.00 \leq \%GE < 60.00 \Rightarrow E$	0.00

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Grade Corrections

Grade corrections should be submitted promptly in writing within three business days of the grade posting. Include a concise statement of why you believe that there has been an error. The instructor has the final determination in the assigned grade; if a grade change is made, the grade may be lower or higher.

SAF&P = Steady Aircraft Flight & Performance, OM = Orbital Mechanics

Course Schedule, Approximately by Lecture Number

1	Aug 22	History of Flight, Aircraft structure/movable surfaces	SAF&P Ch. 1
2	Aug 25	Flight Environment	SAF&P Ch. 2
3	Aug 27	Flight Environment	SAF&P Ch. 2
-	Aug 29	MATLAB Tutorial (TA-led)	
-	Sep 1	Holiday	
4	Sep 3	Physics of Flight	SAF&P Ch. 2
5	Sep 5	Matrices Review, Coordinate Systems	
6	Sep 8	Coordinate Systems, Rotations	SAF&P Ch. 3
7	Sep 10	Rotations, Kinematics with Wind, Aerodynamic Forces	SAF&P Ch. 3
8	Sep 12	Aerodynamic Forces	SAF&P Ch. 3

Homework 1 Due Sep 15 (Mon), 11:59 PM

9	Sep 15	Aerodynamic Forces, Aerodynamic Moments	SAF&P Ch. 3
10	Sep 17	Aerodynamic Moments, Aircraft Attitude, Rotations	SAF&P Ch. 3
11	Sep 19	Aerodynamic Moments, Aircraft Attitude, Rotations	SAF&P Ch. 3

Quiz 1 at end of lecture on Sep 19 (Fri)

12	Sep 22	Aerodynamic Moments, Propulsion	SAF&P Ch. 3, 4
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Homework 2 Due Sep 22 (Mon), 11:59 PM

13	Sep 24	Steady Lift and Drag, Performance Optimization, Gliding	SAF&P Ch. 5, 6
14	Sep 26	Gliding, Level Flight	SAF&P Ch. 6, 7
15	Sep 29	Level Flight	SAF&P Ch. 7
16	Oct 1	Level Flight	SAF&P Ch. 7

Homework 3 Due Oct 1 (Wed), 11:59 PM

17	Oct 3	Level Flight, Climbing and Descending Flight	SAF&P Ch. 7, 8
18	Oct 6	Climbing and Descending Flight, Take-off	SAF&P Ch. 8

Quiz 2 at end of lecture on Oct 6 (Mon)

19	Oct 8	Landing, Range and Endurance, Turning Flight	SAF&P Ch. 11, 9
20	Oct 10	Turning Flight, Spins, Spiral Dives	SAF&P Ch. 9

End of Coverage for Midterm Exam

21	Oct 13	Review for Midterm Exam	
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Homework 4 Due Oct 13 (Mon), 11:59 PM

22	Oct 15	History of Spaceflight	OM Ch. 1
23	Oct 20	Modern Spaceflight	OM Ch. 1

Midterm Exam Oct 16 (Thu), 8:20 PM

24	Oct 22	Gravitation, N-Body Problem	OM Ch. 2
25	Oct 24	2-Body Problem, Potential	OM Ch. 2
26	Oct 27	Constants of Motion, Local Vertical Local Horizontal	OM Ch. 2

-	Oct 28	STK Tutorial (TA-led), 6:15 PM	
27	Oct 29	Position and Time in Orbit, Trajectory Equation	OM Ch. 2
28	Oct 31	Conic Section Orbits, Circular Orbits	OM Ch. 2
29	Nov 3	Circular Orbits, Elliptic Orbits	OM Ch. 2
Quiz 3 at end of lecture on Nov 3 (Mon)			
30	Nov 5	Elliptic Orbits	OM Ch. 2
Homework 5 Due Nov 5 (Wed), 11:59 PM			
31	Nov 7	Burnout, Orbit in 3D	OM Ch. 2, 4
32	Nov 10	Orbit in 3D, Ground Tracks	OM Ch. 4
33	Nov 12	Parabolic Orbits, Hyperbolic Orbits	OM Ch. 2
34	Nov 14	Hyperbolic Orbits, One-Impulse Transfers	OM Ch. 2, 6
35	Nov 17	One-Impulse Transfers, Two-Impulse Transfers	OM Ch. 6
Homework 6 Due Nov 17 (Mon), 11:59 PM			
36	Nov 19	Two-Impulse Combos, Interplanetary Transfers	OM Ch. 6, 8
37	Nov 21	Rocket Equation	OM Ch. 13
Quiz 4 at end of lecture on Nov 21 (Fri)			
End of Coverage for Final Exam			
38	Dec 1	Review for Final Exam	
39	Dec 3	Review for Final Exa	
Homework 7 Due Dec 3 (Wed), 11:59 PM			
Project Due Dec 3 (Wed), 11:59 PM			
Final Exam Dec 9 (Tue), 10:00 AM			