

**City University of Hong Kong  
Course Syllabus**

**offered by  
Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering  
with effect from Semester A 2022 / 2023**

**Part I Course Overview**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Course Title:</b>   | Finite Element Analysis   |
| <b>Course Code:</b>  | CA8027  |
| <b>Course Duration:</b>                                      | 1 Semester<br>(Some courses offered in Summer Term may start a few weeks earlier than the normal University schedule. Please check the teaching schedules with CLs before registering for the courses.) |
| <b>Credit Units:</b>   | 3   |
| <b>Level:</b>  | R8  |
| <b>Medium of Instruction:</b>                                | English   |
| <b>Medium of Assessment:</b>                                 | English   |
| <b>Prerequisites:</b><br><i>(Course Code and Title)</i>      | Nil   |
| <b>Precursors:</b><br><i>(Course Code and Title)</i>         | Nil   |
| <b>Equivalent Courses:</b><br><i>(Course Code and Title)</i> | Nil   |
| <b>Exclusive Courses:</b><br><i>(Course Code and Title)</i>  | Nil   |

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## Part II Course Details

### 1. Abstract

The course intends to provide students with knowledge on basic principle of finite element method and its application to truss and frame structures, heat conduction, and linear elasticity; use of application software; overview of advanced topics such as structural dynamics, fluid flow, and nonlinear structural analysis.

### 2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

| No.  | CILOs #  | Weighting*<br>(if applicable) | Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate) |    |    |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---|----|----|
|  |  |                               | A1  | A2 | A3 |
| 1.   | learn and discover fundamental principles of finite element to analyze and design structural members under axial load, shear load, bending moment and torsional moment | 25%                           | ✓   |    |    |
| 2.   | establish finite element model for structural analysis   | 25%                           |   | ✓  |    |
| 3.   | discover appropriate finite element model in linear elasticity to solve practical boundary-value problems of structures  | 25%                           |   | ✓  |    |
| 4.   | discover the advanced topics in elastic dynamics, variation principles, thick-walled cylinders, and nonlinear analysis of plates and shells                            | 25%                           |   | ✓  |    |
| * If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%. |  | 100%                          |   |    |    |

#### A1: Attitude

*Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.*

#### A2: Ability

*Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.*

#### A3: Accomplishments

*Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.*

### 3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

| TLA      | Brief Description   | CILO No. |   |   |   | Hours / week (if applicable) |
|----------|---|----------|---|---|---|------------------------------|
|          |   | 1        | 2 | 3 | 4 |                              |
| Lecture  | Address the basic principles and theories for Finite Element Method | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 2 hours/week                 |
| Tutorial | Explain how to use commercial software for structural analysis      | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 1 hour/week                  |

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Semester Hours:                  | 3 hours per week                          |
| Lecture/Tutorial/Laboratory Mix: | Lecture (2); Tutorial (1); Laboratory (0) |

### 4. Assessment Tasks/Activities

| Assessment Tasks / Activities           | CILO No. |   |   |   | Weighting* | Remarks |
|---|----------|---|---|---|------------|---------|
|   | 1        | 2 | 3 | 4 |            |         |
| Continuous Assessment: 50%              |          |   |   |   |            |         |
| Assignment                              | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 30%        |         |
| Mid-term test                           |          | ✓ |   |   | 20%        |         |
| Examination: 50% (duration: 2 hour(s))  |          |   |   |   |            |         |
| Examination                             |          |   |   |   | 50%        |         |
| * The weightings should add up to 100%. |          |   |   |   | 100%       |         |

To pass a course, a student must obtain minimum marks of 30% in both coursework and examination components, and an overall mark of at least 40%

## 5. Assessment Rubrics

Applicable to students admitted in Semester A 2022/23 and thereafter

| Assessment Task | Criterion   | Excellent (A+, A, A-) | Good (B+, B, B-) | Marginal (D)/ Pass (P) on P/F basis | Failure (F)                       |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Assignment      | ABILITY to USE commercial software to solve an engineering problem.   | High                  | Significant      | Basic                               | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| Mid-term test   | ABILITY to APPLY the basic principle and the scientific techniques in solving the plate and shell structures. | High                  | Significant      | Basic                               | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| Examination     | CAPACITY to UNDERSTAND the mathematical theories and USE them in solving an engineering problem.              | High                  | Significant      | Basic                               | Not even reaching marginal levels |

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23

| Assessment Task | Criterion   | Excellent (A+, A, A-) | Good (B+, B, B-) | Fair (C+, C, C-) | Marginal (D)/ Pass (P) on P/F basis | Failure (F)                       |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Assignment      | ABILITY to USE commercial software to solve an engineering problem.   | High                  | Significant      | Moderate         | Basic                               | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| Mid-term test   | ABILITY to APPLY the basic principle and the scientific techniques in solving the plate and shell structures. | High                  | Significant      | Moderate         | Basic                               | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| Examination     | CAPACITY to UNDERSTAND the mathematical theories and USE them in solving an engineering problem.              | High                  | Significant      | Moderate         | Basic                               | Not even reaching marginal levels |

**Part III Other Information** (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

**1. Keyword Syllabus**

The finite element method and its application to engineering problems: truss and frame structures, heat conduction, and linear elasticity; use of application software; overview of advanced topics such as structural dynamics, fluid flow, and nonlinear structural analysis.

**2. Reading List**

**2.1 Compulsory Readings**

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | Thomas, JR, Hughes & Hinton, E 1986, Finite element methods for plate and shell structures, Pineridge, Swansea.                        |
| 2. | Zienkiewicz, OC, Taylor, RL & Zhu, JZ 2013, Finite element method: its basis and fundamentals, 7th edn, Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford. |

**2.2 Additional Readings**

|    |  |
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| 1. | Moaveni S 2015, Finite element analysis : theory and application with Ansys, 4th edn, Pearson Education, Harlow. |
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