

CA2674: CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Effective Term

Summer Term 2025

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Construction Materials

Subject Code

CA - Civil and Architectural Engineering

Course Number

2674

Academic Unit

Architecture and Civil Engineering (CA)

College/School

College of Engineering (EG)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

BC2674 Construction Materials

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

To provide students the fundamental knowledge of the principal properties of construction materials, with particular reference to their performance in use, and the factors which lead to their deterioration; to further develop students

knowledge of the structural aspects of building design and construction. This course provides the necessary backgrounds for studying the other courses in the programme.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe the properties of concrete and its constituents, such as cement, aggregates, and admixtures, as a construction material; apply different methods in measuring the properties and performance of fresh and hardened concrete;		x		
2	Outline the design principles and limitations of various types of structural systems (including the frames, trusses, arches, plates/shells, cables, and membranes);			x	
3	Identify the factors that affect the properties and performance of concrete as a construction material, and make decisions on design of concrete mix;			x	
4	describe the principal properties of construction materials: ferrous metals, timber, polymers and glass;		x		
5	identify the factors that affect the structural performances of the construction materials; destructive and non-destructive tests;			x	

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 real-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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Explain the key principles, theories on concrete, cement, aggregates and Admixtures; performance of fresh and hardened concrete and durability of concrete.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	

2	Tutorial	Require the students to discuss the factors affecting properties of concrete and decision on concrete mix design.	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	Laboratory	Require the students to take part on engineering tests methods on construction materials; to discover the stress-strain behavior of steel bars.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Assignment/Mid-term Test	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	20	-	No
2	Laboratory Report	1, 2, 3, 4	30	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

3

Additional Information for ATs

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%.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Assignment/Mid-term Test

Criterion

1. CAPACITY to DISCUSS the properties of concrete and its constituents as a construction materials
2. ABILITY to RECOGNIZE different methods in measuring the properties and performance of fresh and hardened concrete

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Laboratory Report

Criterion

1. ABILITY to APPLY suitable testing methods of fresh and hardened concrete

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Examination

Criterion

1. CAPACITY to RECOGNIZE and DISCUSS the properties of concrete and its constituents as construction material, and DISCUSS the factors that affect the properties and performance of concrete and ferrous metals
2. ABILITY to DISCUSS the test methods in measuring performance of fresh and hardened concrete, destructive and non-destructive test

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Construction materials: Cement; Aggregates; Admixtures; Properties of fresh and hardened concrete; Destructive and non-destructive testing of concrete; Concrete mix design; Reinforced concrete; Fibre-reinforced composite materials; Durability of concrete. Properties of ferrous metals, timber, polymers and glass including their applications; Mechanical destructive and non-destructive testing of ferrous metals; Corrosion and surface protection of steel in service.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Neville, A.M. & Brooks, J.J. (2001), Concrete Technology, Revised Edition 2001, Harlow, Essex, UK. (TA439 .N46)
2	Davis, J.R. (2000), Corrosion: Understanding the Basics, Materials Park, Ohio: ASM International. (TA462 .C668)
3	Callister, William D. (2010), Materials Science and Engineering: An Introduction, 8th Edition, NJ : John Wiley. (TA403 .C23)
4	Taylor, Geoffrey D. (2000), Materials in Construction: An Introduction, 3rd Edition, Harlow: Longman. (TA403 .T39)
5	Illston, J. & Domone, P. (2010), Construction Materials: Their Nature and Behaviour, 4th Edition, New York: Spon Press. (TA403 .C636)
6	Allen, Edward (1999), Fundamentals of Building Construction: Materials and Methods, 5th Edition, NJ: John Wiley. (TH145 .A417)
7	Iwamoto, L. (2009). Digital Fabrications: Architectural and Material Techniques. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.
8	Schierle, G.G. (2008). Structure and Design, Cognella. ISBN: 978-1-93426-937-4
9	Spence, W. P. , Kultermann, E. (2011). Construction Materials, Methods and Techniques. Building for a sustainable future. New York: Delmar, Cengage Learning
10	Smith, B.S. , Coull, A. (1991). Tall Building Structures - Analysis and Design. New York: John Wiley & Sons.
11	Staib, G., Doerrhoefer, S., Rosenthal, M. (2008). Components and Systems: Modular Construction: Design, Structure, New Technologies. Basel: Birkhaeuser
12	Stavridis, L. (2010). Structural Systems: Behaviour and Design, ICE Publishing. ISBN: 978-0727741066