The University of Texas at El Paso
Department of Civil Engineering

Syllabus - Water and Wastewater Engineering (CE3342)

Welcome to CE3342 - Water and Wastewater Engineering! Here you will find important information about our meetings, instructional methods, assessment activities, grading, and resources available to UTEP students. Please read this document carefully and contact your instructor if you have any questions.

COURSE INFORMATION

CE 3342: Water and Wastewater Engineering

Term: Fall 2025
CRN: 12886
Delivery Method: In-person
Class Meeting Day and Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30 am – 11:20 am
Location: Liberal Arts Building 203

CRN: 13467 and 15195
Delivery Method: In-person
Laboratory Meeting Day and Time: Mondays or Fridays, 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Location: Engineering 204

Prerequisite: To enroll in CE3342, students must have taken CE 2375 and earned a minimum grade of C. Concepts from general chemistry will be applied in this course. If you have not mastered these concepts, please contact me or the TA, and we will provide resources to help you.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

CE 3342 is a required 3-credit course for the Civil Engineering major. The primary goal of CE 3342 is to teach students the physical, chemical, and biological processes involved in conventional water and wastewater treatment plants. The course includes the theoretical principles applied in the design of unit processes that constitute municipal water or wastewater treatment trains. It helps students create preliminary designs for water facilities based on technical considerations such as water quality parameters, current legislation, desired removal efficiencies, location of the plant, capital and operating costs, noise, odor, and aesthetics. In addition, the course aims to raise awareness of water security and the role of engineers in the development and implementation of technologies to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation. The instructional activities and assessment methods used in this course are grounded in learner-centered principles. As an instructor, I aim to help learners improve their critical thinking skills and achieve a higher level of comprehension of factors affecting the design of water and wastewater treatment processes by providing hands-on activities and bringing real-world situations into the classroom. I strongly believe that collaborative learning can positively impact how much students can learn and retain by engaging in discussions with their peers. Thus, this course will involve in-class activities and projects performed in teams. I support an inclusive learning environment where different perspectives are valued and respected and everyone's contributions are encouraged and appreciated.

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

My name is Camila Leite Madeira (pronouns: she, her, hers) and I joined the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Texas at El Paso in Fall 2023. I received my bachelor's degree (2013) in environmental engineering from the Federal University of Itajubá, Brazil, and my master's (2016) and PhD (2020) degrees in environmental engineering from the University of Arizona. I have worked as a postdoc at the Department of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (2020-2022), and at the Institute of Chemistry at the State University of Campinas, Brazil (2022-2023). My research focuses on understanding the fate of emerging contaminants in the environment and designing microbial processes for their removal. I am also interested in the design of sustainable and reliable wastewater treatment processes to achieve equitable access to safe water and sanitation. As an instructor, I aim to promote inclusive education for underrepresented students in STEM programs. During my free time, I enjoy dancing, baking, reading, and hiking. This is my fourth time teaching CE3342, and I hope you enjoy our meetings as much as I do.

COMMUNICATION

You are always welcome to talk to me before or after class. For communication outside of class, please send me an email or a message on Blackboard. I will do my best to respond within 48 hours. There are weeks when by inbox get quite full, so if you don't hear back from me, please send me a gentle reminder. Please check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates,

deadlines, or other important messages. In-class announcements are usually shown at the end of the slides presented in class.

Email: cleitemadeira@utep.edu
Office Location: Engineering Annex, Room 217

STUDY SESSION

I encourage every student to attend our study session. It is a great opportunity to discuss the content of our course, clarify any questions related to in-class exercises or homework problems, work with your peers, and also talk about career opportunities in water and wastewater engineering. Please find below information on our regular study session:

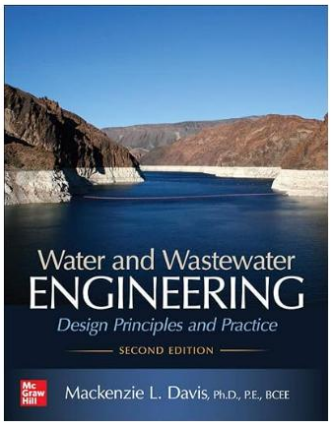
- Day and time to be confirmed
- Tentative location: Hydrology laboratory (Engineering Building)

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

Student Learning Objective	**Outcome**
Explain the importance of water and wastewater treatment in global, economic, environmental, and societal contexts.	 Social Responsibility
Interpret local, national, and international regulations related to water and wastewater and evaluate challenges related to water safety and access across the world.	 Global Awareness
Perform water quality analysis, examine water quality analysis data, and write technical reports including a discussion of the experimental data.	 Critical Thinking Skills
Create a preliminary design of conventional coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, and granular media filtration treatment processes for drinking water.	 Problem-Solving Skills
Create a preliminary design of primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment processes and solids management for wastewater.	 Problem-Solving Skills
Work in teams to design a water or wastewater treatment process.	 Communication Skills  Teamwork Skills

REQUIRED MATERIALS



Davis (2020) Water and Wastewater Engineering (Second Edition), McGraw Hill

ISBN: 9781260132274

The online version of this textbook is available free of charge through the UTEP Library using the campus network or VPN.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Different assessment methods will be used in this course to acknowledge the variety of skills that a student may have. Please note that homework assignments are optional. If you choose to turn in your homework assignments, grading scheme 1 will be used to calculate your grade. Otherwise, grading scheme 2 will be used.

Grade Distribution:

100-89.5 = A, 89.4-79.5 = B, 79.4-69.5 = C, 69.4-59.5 = D, 59.4 and Below = F

Undergraduate Students - Grading scheme 1:

Activities	Percentages
Homework	15%
In-class activities	5%
Laboratory reports	10%
Group Work	10%
Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final Exam	20%

Undergraduate Students - Grading scheme 2:

Activities	Percentages
In-class activities	5%
Laboratory reports	10%
Group Work	10%
Midterm 1	25%

Midterm 2	25%
Final Exam	25%

Graduate students – Grading scheme 1:

Activities	Percentages
Homework	20%
In-class activities	10%
Laboratory reports	10%
Group Work	10%
Graduate student paper	5%
Midterm 1	15%
Midterm 2	15%
Final Exam	15%

Graduate students – Grading scheme 2:

Activities	Percentages
In-class activities	10%
Laboratory reports	10%
Group Work	10%
Graduate student paper	10%
Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final Exam	20%

a) Homework: There will be approximately seven homework assignments during the semester. They will be posted on Blackboard and students will have seven days to submit their solutions. Students are required to submit their solutions through Blackboard and should make sure that the content is legible. The solutions will be posted after graded assignments are returned. If students opt for Grading Scheme 2, they are not required to submit homework solutions as they will not be a component of their grades. Collaboration to solve the problems is permitted and encouraged as long as each student lists their collaborators and submits their own solutions. If you do not know how to solve a problem, please attend the study sessions or contact me and I will be glad to help you. If a student decides to copy problem solutions from Chegg, Course Hero, or similar websites, the assignment will not be graded and the student will receive a zero. In addition, the student may be reported for academic dishonesty.

b) In-class activities: Different activities will be used in the classroom to promote active learning and increase student engagement. Students are expected to submit a short reflection (Exit Ticket) at the end of each lecture describing the most important concept they learned that day and identifying the most confusing or least clear part of the lecture. For full credit, students are expected to submit at least 23 reflections. The grade will be calculated based on the number of reflections submitted by the student assuming that 23 reflections are equivalent to full credit (example: 11 reflections = 50%).

c) Laboratory reports: Each team must submit their reports within seven days of the laboratory session. The reports will be assessed according to a rubric, which will be posted on Blackboard. There will be a total of four laboratory reports. Each team must submit one laboratory report per experiment and identify the contributions of each team member.

d) Group work: We will have an in-class activity called "Jigsaw", which consists of two parts. In Part I, students will be divided into four "focus groups" and each focus group will be given a different text to read and discuss. Each focus group will prepare a 5 to 7-minute presentation on their text. In Part II, two members of each focus group will form a new "task group". These two members will be responsible for presenting their specific topic to the other task group members. At the end of the activity, each task group will submit an assignment containing questions related to the four topics. Students must participate in person for full credit.

e) Graduate student paper: This is an individual assignment. The papers will be assessed according to a rubric. Specific instructions for the paper and the rubric will be posted on Blackboard. The topic chosen for the paper must be previously approved by the instructor.

f) Exams: The exams will be in-person and individual. Students are allowed to have a cheat sheet on the day of the exam, which cannot exceed a letter size (8.5 in x 11.0 in) sheet of paper. Each student must prepare their own cheat sheet. Students are allowed to use a calculator. However, the use of a laptop, tablet, smartphone, or similar technology is not permitted during the exam. The exams consist of multiple choice, short-answer, and calculation questions. Partial credit will be given when you demonstrate that you have solved parts of the problem correctly.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Some course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

iCLICKER

I will be using a cloud-based student response software by iClicker in class this semester. This will help me understand what you know, give everyone a chance to participate in class, and increase how much you learn when we are in class together. This will also provide you with feedback on how well you are comprehending course concepts and help you master challenging concepts. This software will be used to keep track of your participation in in-class activities.

You are required to bring a device to participate in my iClicker sessions during class. You can participate with a smartphone, tablet, or laptop. You can download the iClicker student mobile app via the App Store or Google Play, or you can use the iClicker web app by signing in as a student at iclicker.com. It is your responsibility to set up your iClicker Student account in a timely fashion, as well as making sure your device is working properly. If you do not have an existing iClicker student account then you will need to create one to be able to participate in class. You will also need to connect to either UTEP's Wi-Fi (UTEPSecure) or to your mobile data plan while using iClicker.

COURSE COMMUNICATION:

Here are the ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- Study sessions: I will host study sessions where you can bring your questions and comments about the course. They are in-person, however, you can request a virtual meeting and I will send you a Teams link.
- Email: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student e-mail account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the in-class activities of the course, as previously explained. Attendance in the laboratory sessions is determined by participation in the experiments and elaboration of the laboratory reports. One opportunity for a make-up laboratory session will be given in case of a documented emergency or prior notice to the instructor.

ILLNESS PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations.

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar's Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY

Assignments: The deadlines to submit the assignments will be posted on Blackboard. If you know you will not be able to submit an assignment prior to the deadline, contact me as soon as possible so we can work on appropriate accommodations. Otherwise, you will receive a penalty of 10% of the grade per late day. Late work will not be accepted after the solution has been posted on Blackboard or after seven days from the due date.

MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment or exam and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a backup. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your backup document as a last resort.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing

so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

I acknowledge that many students have caregiver responsibilities outside of the classroom and may run into challenges that require them to miss a class or submission deadline. I might be able to offer some flexibility in some situations, so please don't hesitate to talk to me about accommodations.

PREFERRED NAME AND PRONOUM

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct instructors on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly in class or via email (instructor email).

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT is permitted in this course to assist the elaboration of laboratory reports and graduate paper. However, if students opt to use generative AI, they must disclose it and explain how they used the AI tool, as well as report if they were satisfied with the result. Simply copying and pasting AI-generated text is not allowed and will be considered plagiarism.

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE

Some of your course work and assessments may submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

COURSE RESOURCES

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. These resources aim to help students use their full potential to achieve their academic goals.

Technology Resources

- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- The Miner Learning Center: Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- UTEP Edge: UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

Individual Resources

- Student Success Help Desk (SSHD): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transposition resources my submit a ticket request assistance to studentsuccess@utep.edu
- Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.
- UTEP Food Pantry: Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

DISCLOSURE

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus on an as-needed basis throughout the term.

COURSE SCHEDULE – FALL 2025

Week	Day	Lesson	Topic	Textbook	Homework
1	25-Aug	1	Introduction and Overview of Water Treatment Processes	-	
1	27-Aug	2	Water Quality and Legislation	2	
2	1-Sep	-	Labor day (no classes)	-	
2	3-Sep	3	Water Treatment Overview	-	
3	8-Sep	4	Water Chemistry	-	1
3	10-Sep	5	Coagulation	6	
4	15-Sep	6	Flocculation	6	
4	17-Sep	7	Lime-Soda Softening	7	2
5	22-Sep	8	Sedimentation	10	
5	24-Sep	9	Filtration	11	3
6	29-Sep	10	Review	-	
6	1-Oct	-	**Midterm 1**	-	
7	6-Oct	11	Disinfection and Disinfection Byproducts	13	
7	8-Oct	12	Membrane Processes	12	
8	13-Oct	13	Group Work (Part I)	-	
8	15-Oct	14	Group Work 2 (Part II)	-	
9	20-Oct	15	Removal of Specific Constituents	14	4
9	22-Oct	16	Wastewater Characteristics and Legislation	18	
10	27-Oct	17	Wastewater Equalization and Primary Treatment	21	5
10	29-Oct	18	Wastewater Microbiology I: Kinetics	22	
11	3-Nov	19	Review	-	
11	5-Nov	20	**Midterm 2**		
12	10-Nov	21	Wastewater Microbiology II: Redox reactions	22	
12	12-Nov	-	Reactors and Mass Balance	-	
13	17-Nov	22	Activated Sludge	23	6
13	19-Nov	23	Nitrogen Removal Processes	23/24	
14	24-Nov	24	Anaerobic Wastewater Treatment Processes	23	
14	26-Nov	25	Sludge Handling and Disposal and Resource Recovery	27	7
15	1-Dec	26	Direct Potable Reuse	29	
15	3-Dec	27	Review	-	
16	12-Dec	-	**Final Exam***		

*Date to be confirmed

LABORATORY SCHEDULE – FALL 2025

Due to the ongoing renovation of the Civil Engineering Water Teaching and Research Laboratories, our laboratory in room 204 (Engineering building) will operate at a maximum capacity of 12 students. Thus, the students registered for the Monday session (CRN 16064) will be divided into two groups for the laboratory sessions.

The students will perform a total of four experiments as listed below. One laboratory report will be required for each experiment. The laboratory reports are due one week after the completion of each laboratory session and must be uploaded to Blackboard. The completion of the safety training is required prior to the first laboratory session and the certificate must be uploaded to the course page on Blackboard.

Experiments:

a) pH and alkalinity of surface water sample

b) Jartest for the determination of coagulant dosage

c) Filtration for the removal of solids from surface water

d) Use of activated carbon for the removal of an emerging contaminant from water

More information about the field trips will be provided by the instructor in class. El Paso Water requires that domestic and international students present a government-issued identification document to access their facilities (driver's license for domestic students and passport biographical page for international students). Thus, two weeks prior to the first field trip, students are required to send a copy of their documents to the instructor, who will forward them to El Paso Water security personnel.

Tentative schedule for field trips and laboratory sessions

Week	Day	Topic	Report
1	25-Aug	Safety training	
1	29-Aug	Safety training	
2	1-Sep	Labor day (no classes)	1
2	5-Sep	Group 1 - Friday	1
3	8-Sep	Group 1 - Monday	1
3	12-Sep	-	
4	15-Sep	Group 2 - Monday	1
4	19-Sep	Group 1 - Friday	2
5	22-Sep	Group 1 - Monday	2
5	26-Sep	-	
6	29-Sep	Group 2 - Monday	2
6	3-Oct	Group 1 - Friday	3
7	6-Oct	Field trip - Upper Valley Water Treatment Plant	
7	10-Oct	Field trip - Upper Valley Water Treatment Plant	

8	13-Oct	Group 1 - Monday	3
8	17-Oct	-	
9	20-Oct	Group 2 - Monday	3
9	24-Oct	Group 1 - Friday	4
10	27-Oct	Group 1 - Monday	4
10	31-Oct	-	
11	3-Nov	Field trip - Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant	
11	7-Nov	Field trip - Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant	
12	10-Nov	Group 2 – Monday	4
12	14-Nov	Makeup lab – Group 1 (Friday)	
13	17-Nov	Makeup lab – Groups 1 and 2 (Monday)	
13	21-Nov	Field trip - John Hickerson Water Reclamation Facility	
14	24-Nov	Field trip - John Hickerson Water Reclamation Facility	
14	28-Nov	Thanksgiving (no classes)	