



USC University of Southern California

Introduction to Aerospace Engineering 20233_ame_105_ 28706, 28815

Units: 4

Fall 2023—Tue/Thu—9:30 – 10:50, 11:00 – 12:20 PST

Location: VHE 210

Instructor: Geoffrey Spedding

Office: OHE 500L

Office Hours: 1-2:30 pm Tue,Thu, noon – 1 pm Wed

Contact Info: geoff@usc.edu

Teaching Assistant (lab): tba

Office/Hours: Mon, Thu 1-2 pm, VHE 202

Lab Hours: 28707 Thu 2 – 4:50 pm, SAL 127

28708 Mon 2 – 4:50 pm, SAL 109

Contact Info: cklewick@usc.edu

Teaching assistant (grading/lecture): tba

Contact info: marbatt@usc.edu

Course Description

The “Intro. to Aero.” class is the first taste of Aerospace Engineering for AE majors and anyone else who is interested, or curious. It provides an example of the application of the principles of mathematics and physics to an engineering topic of great societal impact. It is an illustration of the art of engineering, and we also examine the politics and business of aerospace engineering, again from the perspective of basic quantitative analysis and prediction. We aim to provide the background and basis for further exploration of fluid mechanics, structures and aerodynamics, and for emerging into the world of professional engineering and/or academia. The background is in the form of analysis, synthesis and design, numerical computation and computer-aided drawing. Each of these 4 skill-sets lays the foundation for further progress over the next 3.5 years.

Course Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

- 1) place aerospace engineering in societal context
- 2) formulate and manipulate equations for transport efficiency
- 3) apply the fundamental equations for the physics of fluids to canonical problems
- 4) understand and use International Standard Atmospheric tables
- 5) calculate lift and drag for wings and bodies for varying Reynolds numbers, Mach number
- 6) estimate drag, thrust and power curves for aircraft as a function of flight speed

- 7) design a basic aircraft for a mission defined by weight, speed and distance
- 8) read, interpret and apply lift-drag polars for design
- 9) construct a basic flight mechanics model for simulating drag and power requirements
- 10) make detailed Re-dependent drag estimates for an entire aircraft, predicting range and endurance
- 11) design a vehicle that is passively stable in pitch and yaw
- 12) design and describe parts in a Computer Aided Drawing (CAD) program
- 13) produce parts assemblies
- 14) generate simple Matlab scripts to calculate and render data
- 15) make clear, concise and quantitative statements about engineering data

Course Notes

This class is taught in standard lecture mode. There are 2 80-minute lectures per week. Each week, one homework will be assigned, due the following week. The homework will be based on material discussed in class. Most weeks there will also be a 10-15 minute class quiz, with simple questions designed to check your working knowledge. The class is not broadcast simultaneously, but all lecture materials can be found in movies that are posted online, week-by-week. In-class attendance is very strongly recommended. This is where we form our learning community. Attendance at mid-term, and at finals is mandatory, and non-changeable. Attendance at Glider Day is also very strongly advised, since the glider report forms a significant part of the class grade.

Communication & technology

The class is hosted on Blackboard (BB). BB hosts also the weekly assignments. Assignments are due one week following their release online. All general and technical questions should be addressed to the Discussion Board (DB) on BB. All electronic communications will be answered within 24 hours, except at weekends. Usually the response time is under 2 hours. Students are encouraged to hold themselves to this standard so that group work can be efficient. Groups are defined and enabled on BB. **In most assignments, group participation is encouraged.**

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

We assume that every student has access to Microsoft Office (which is provided free by the University) and/or a Google equivalent, or Overleaf (for LaTeX), so that typeset documents and spreadsheets can be generated and submitted. We will also assume the ability to scan documents (usually containing hand-written equations), for which a standard smartphone is sufficient.

USC technology rental program

We realize that attending classes online and completing coursework remotely requires access to technology that not all students possess. If you need resources to successfully participate in your classes, such as a laptop or internet hotspot, you may be eligible for the university's equipment rental program. To apply, please [submit an application](#). The Student Basic Needs team will contact all applicants in early August and distribute equipment to eligible applicants prior to the start of the fall semester.

USC Technology Support Links

[Zoom information for students](#)

[Blackboard help for students](#)

[Software available to USC Campus](#)

Required Materials

Every student must have a copy of the textbook 'Introduction to Flight' by J. Anderson. There are numerous editions, each one more expensive than the last. The course materials and references to this text are organized so that any edition from the 4th onwards will suffice. Any online edition is also acceptable.

Optional Materials

There is an optional textbook, 'The Simple Science of Flight' by H. Tennekes. No course material depends on it, but it is highly encouraged because it expands the scope of the class, while being completely in line with the main themes of the course. It also costs about \$15.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

Assignments are aligned with the learning objectives, meaning that each assignment serves to measure student performance on at least one learning objective. The following is a complete list of expected assignments. hw denotes a homework assignment, *en* an exam. Lab1-3 are the main assignments for the graphics/CAD lab.

- 1) hw1: cost of transport and real aircraft specifications
- 2) hw2: computing the standard atmosphere
- 3) hw3: interim summary -- online
- 4) hw4: 2D airfoils and aircraft applications
- 5) hw5: airfoil geometry and Reynolds number
- 6) hw6: a simple computer model of flight vs. speed
- 7) hw7: flight performance analysis
- 8) hw8: model predictions for a model glider
- 9) hw9: practical glider flight tests and a scientific report
- 10) e1 - mid-term exam: from basic aerodynamics to viscous boundary layers
- 11) e2 - final exam: everything, including stability and high-speed flight

Here is how the assignments map onto the course outcomes:

Student learning outcome	Graded assignments
1	hw1, 4
2	hw1, e1,2
3	hw2, 3, e1,2
4	hw2, e1,2
5	hw5, 8, 9, e1,2
6	hw6, 9, e1,2
7	hw6, 7, e1,2
8	hw5, 9, e1,2
9	hw6
10	hw8, 9
11	e2
12	lab1
13	lab2
14	lab3
15	hw1, 4, 6, 8, 9, e1, 2

Every homework is accompanied at the time of its publication with a detailed grading template, which is then used to score the result. For every homework there is a dedicated BlackBoard discussion section, which is monitored by the Instructor.

Grading Breakdown

This is an estimate of how the grade for the class is distributed amongst the various assignments. It is an initial estimate only, as the actual weights will depend slightly on adaptations to the class progress during the semester. There will also be a balance between in class quizzes and homework assignments. The in-class quizzes will count towards the HW totals below. Hw8 & 9 are important, and act as capstones projects for the class as a whole. Hw8 is a theoretical/numerical model which is then combined with flight tests in hw9.

Assignment	% of Grade
Hw1-7	25
Hw8, 9	25
Graphics lab	10
Mid-term	20
Final	20
Total	100

Assignment Submission

Assignments are published on Blackboard at 9am every Thursday. Submissions themselves will be on paper and are handed in before class.

Grading Timeline

Every homework will be graded within one week of submission. A review of the grading will typically be given on the Tuesday Discussion Session.

Late work

Each homework score is reduced by 10% for every day late. 1 µsec late counts as one day. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Academic integrity

Take-home homeworks put an extra emphasis on honesty and academic integrity. In homeworks, the default is that collaboration is allowed, and encouraged, provided the names of all collaborators are clearly noted at the time of homework submission. Class quizzes and exams are solo efforts.

Sharing of course materials outside of the learning environment

USC has a policy that prohibits sharing of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

SCampus Section 11.12(B)

Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing class notes. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the Internet or via any other media. (See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy).

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Discussion Topic	notes & movies
1	Aug 22, 24	Introduction/Engineering Fundamentals	M0-Introduction M1-Physics of Fluids
2	Aug 29, 31	Aerostatics/Standard Atmosphere begin Graphics Lab	M2-Aerostatics M3-ISA
3	Sep 4 Sep 5, 7	Labor Day Basic & practical Aero.	M4-Aerodynamics
4	Sep 12, 14	Airfoils	M5-Applied Aerodynamics M6-Airfoils
5	Sep 19, 21	Wings	M7-Wings
6	Sep 26, 28	Real wings, real drag last week of Graphics Lab	M8-AeroDesign
7	Oct 3, 5	Viscosity/Boundary Layers first week of Glider Build	M9-Viscous Flows
8	Oct 10	Separation/turbulence Fall recess (Oct 12,13)	M10-Turbulence
9	Oct 17, 19	Turbulence, MT MidTerm	MT prep
10	Oct 24, 26	Flight Mechanics 1 Flight Mechanics 2	M11-Flight Mechanics M12-Gliding
11	Oct 31, Nov 2	Stability & control	M14-StabilityControl
12	Nov 7, 9	High-speed flight 1	M15-HighSpeed
13	Nov 14 Nov 16	High-speed flight 2 Glider Flight Tests (6 am)	
14	Nov 21, 23	Thanksgiving Break	no class
15	Nov 28, 30	Summary and review	Glider report due 12/01
	Thu, Dec 7 Tue, Dec 12	Final Exam (11 am – 1 pm) (8 – 10 am)	VHE 210 (in person)

Course evaluation

Course evaluation occurs at the end of the semester university-wide. It is an important review of your class experience. The instructor reads all the compiled statistical data, and every personal (but anonymous) comment. We work hard, months in advance, to design this course to be both challenging and fun. Help us make continuous improvements by thinking about the class and giving evaluations and comments about its various components.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call

studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298

equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710

campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.