

MIN E 330 Mine Transport and Plant Engineering

Winter 2025 - January 06 to April 09

Class time: Tuesday, Thursday 11:00-12:20 Location: AF 1-13

Instructor:

Wei Victor Liu, PhD, P.Eng

victor.liu@ualberta.ca

Donadeo Innovation Centre For Engineering 6-235

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Course Description:

*3.8 (fi) (either term, 3-0-3/2) Underground and surface mine transport systems, including truck haulage, free steered vehicles, rail haulage, wire rope hoisting, belt conveying, silo storage, hydraulic pipelining and pneumatic conveying. Auxiliary mining services such as electric power distribution, pumping and compressed air power. Labs include software-based design problems dealing with the materials taught in the classroom.

Prerequisites: MIN E 295 and ECE 209

Course synchronous and asynchronous content delivery schedule:

Lectures - synchronous; Labs - synchronous

Land Acknowledgment:

The University of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on Treaty 6 territory, traditional lands of First Nations and Métis people.

TA Information:

Chathuranga Arachchilage (Lab reports), PhD student; DICE 6-244; Email: cbalasoo@ualberta.ca

Zhiqiang Feng (Assignments), PhD student; DICE 6-244; Email: zhiqian6@ualberta.ca

Lab Sections:

Section	Day	Time	Location
LAB H31	Alternate Wednesdays	14:00 - 16:50	NRE 2-118

Course Objectives & General Content:

The course objective is to give students an in-depth understanding of various forms and mechanics of bulk materials handling used in the mining industry. This is important because the transport of mining-related bulk materials is an essential component of mining, which determines the mine productivity and revenue

directly. The lecture will cover the following topics: flow properties of the bulk material; design of bins, hoppers, and feeders; belt conveyors; other conveyors; slurry transport; pneumatic conveying; wire rope haulage; free steered vehicles; truck haulage; rail transport; marine transport; electric power distribution; and compressed air power. In the class, interactive examples are presented for practical familiarization with the ideas and fundamentals of mine transport design. In addition, lab sessions are included in the course, allowing students to have hands-on design practice for both continuous (i.e., pipeline) and discrete transport modes (i.e., truck haulage).

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Summarize the characteristics of bulk materials in loading, transport, and storage;
2. Conduct the design of bins, hoppers, and feeders;
3. Discuss various mine transport methods and solve related technical problems regarding carrying capacity and power consumption;
4. Introduce auxiliary mining services including electricity distribution and compressed air supply;
5. Manage one computer software suite assisting the design of silo, belt conveyor, truck fleet, and bulk materials flow.

Marking Scheme:

Activity	(A)Synchronous	Due/Scheduled	Weight
Assignments (#6)	Asynchronous		15%
Lab reports (#6)	Asynchronous		15%
Mid-term exam	Synchronous	Feb 25, 2025	25%
Final exam	Synchronous	TBA in BearTrack	45%

The Faculty recommended grade point average for a 300 level course is 3.0. Instructors have the leeway to deviate from this average and can assign grades based on their own scheme. All grades are approved by the department chair (or delegate). The office of the Dean has final oversight on all grades.

Term Work

All term work solutions will be posted no later than the last day of classes. All term work will be returned to students by the final day of classes, with the exception of major term work due in the last week of classes. The latter will be returned by the day of the final examination or the last day of the examination period if there is no final examination in the course as per university policy; instructors will make accommodations to return these term work. It is the responsibility of the student to pick up all their term work at the specified time and place. Any unreturned term work, shall be retained and then shredded six months after the deadline for reappraisal and grade appeals. Final examinations will be kept for one year as required by university guidelines and the Government of Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Additional Notes

- 1) Assignments lab reports will be submitted to the MIN E 330 “eClass Assignment.”
- 2) A sample report has been provided for the writing structure.
- 3) A late penalty of 40% is applied to all late homework assignments.
- 4) Assignments will not be accepted after one week after the due date.
- 5) If you have any concerns about your grading, please go and check with our TA first.
- 6) Please contact the instructor with all questions regarding the course; contact our TA with all questions regarding the assignments/lab reports.

Calculator Policy

Approved programmable or approved non-programmable calculators are permitted in examinations. Any calculator taken into an examination must have a sticker identifying it as an acceptable programmable calculator (green sticker) or non-programmable calculator (gold sticker). Students can purchase calculators at the University Bookstore with the stickers already affixed. Calculators purchased elsewhere can be brought to the Student Services where the appropriate sticker will be affixed to the calculator.

Expectations for AI use

You are asked to use Generative AI tools in this course. AI use will, however, be dependent on assignment and assessment requirements. Please follow all assessment task-specific directions and guidance as provided. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask during office hours or after class.

Learning to use AI tools well will take time and practice, so be proactive and set aside some time to 'play' with the AI tools used in this class. Since AI Literacy is an emerging skill (for instructor and student), we will experiment together to discover how best to use them for our academic work and learning.

Familiarize yourself with their strengths and weaknesses. Since many of these tools are prone to fabrication (factual inaccuracies), don't trust its outputs. Assume they may contain errors unless you either know the answer or can confirm it using another source. You will be responsible for any errors or omissions provided by the tool that you fail to identify and resolve.

Important: AI is a tool, but one that you need to transparently and honestly acknowledge using. In addition to standard reference and citation expectations (APA, MLA, etc.), please **always include** a reflective paragraph at the end of any assignment that uses AI. Explain what you used the AI for and what prompts you used to get the results. Failure to do so may be considered an act of cheating and a violation as outlined in the relevant sections of University of Alberta (November 2022) [Code of Student Behaviour](#).

Words of advice: Be thoughtful about when and how you use AI tools for your learning. Don't use them if it isn't appropriate for the use case or circumstance. Don't use them to shortcut the work you need to do to achieve your learning goals.

Text and References (Mandatory):

Course handouts will be distributed before each class.

Text and References (Recommended):

Brook, N. (1971) Mechanics of bulk materials handling, Butterworths.

Darling, P. (2011) SME mining engineering handbook, SME.

Jenike, A. W. (1964) Storage and flow of solids, bulletin no. 123. Bulletin of the University of Utah, 53.

Woodcock, C. R. & Mason, J. S. (1987) Bulk solids handling: an introduction to the practice and technology, Springer Science & Business Media.

Website:

^{eClass}
Lab Information:

Lab Topic	Date
Lab 1: Introduction to GoldSim	2025-01-15
Lab 2: Multiple Waste Rock Piles Modeling	2025-01-29
Lab 3: Discrete Truck and Accidents	2025-02-12
Lab 4: Introduction to Belt Analyst	2025-03-05
Lab 5: Introduction to Talpak	2025-03-19
Lab 6: Cost estimation – Mine transport methods	2025-04-02

Did you know that the University of Alberta has various low-to-no-cost services to help students succeed? Visit <http://www.deanofstudents.ualberta.ca/> for information about the academic, wellness, and various other support services available to U of A students. It's never too early or too late to seek help!

**Tentative Schedule of Lectures
for
MIN E330: Mine Transport and Plant Engineering
Instructor: Dr. Wei Victor Liu, P.Eng.**

Note: This is only a draft plan, subject to revision during the course of the semester.

Week	Date	Topics	Comments
1	Jan 7, Jan 9	1. Introduction to the course	Jan 9: HW1 will be distributed. (Due: Jan 16)
2	Jan 14, Jan 16	2. Bulk materials flow and handling properties 3. Silo stresses	Jan 15: Lab 1 will be distributed. (Due: Jan 22)
3	Jan 21, Jan 23	4. Silo design 5. Hydraulic transport_Part 1	Jan 23: HW2 will be distributed. (Due: Jan 20)
4	Jan 28, Jan 30	6. Hydraulic transport_Part 2 7. Pneumatic conveying	Jan 29: Lab 2 will be distributed. (Due: Feb 5)
5	Feb 4, Feb 6	8. Belt conveying system Part 1 9. Belt conveying system Part 2	Feb 6: HW3 will be distributed. (Due: Feb 13)
6	Feb 11, Feb 13	10. Belt conveyor system Part 3 11. Midterm Review Other conveyors	Feb 12: Lab 3 will be distributed. (Due: Feb 26)
7	Feb 18, Feb 20	12. Reading week, no class	No class, have fun
8	Feb 25, Feb 27	13. Mid-term Exam 14. Introduction to wire rope	Feb 25: Mid-term exam (Contents in first 6 weeks)
9	Mar 4, Mar 6	15. Mine hoisting system 16. Truck haulage_Part 1	Mar 5: Lab 4 will be distributed. (Due: March 12)
10	Mar 11, Mar 13	17. Truck haulage_Part 2 18. Truck haulage_Part 3	Mar 13: HW4 will be distributed. (Due: March 20)
11	Mar 18, Mar 20	19. Free steered vehicles 20. Rail transport	March 19: Lab 5 will be distributed. (Due: March 26)
12	Mar 25, Mar 27	21. Marine transport 22. Electric power for mines	March 27: HW5 will be distributed.

Week	Date	Topics	Comments
			(Due: April 3)
13	Apr 1, Apr 3	23. Pneumatic power for mines 24. Stockpiling and reclaiming	Apr 2: Lab 6 (Due: April 9)
14	Apr 8	25. Safety issues 26. Final Review - Other	
		Final Exam (TBD, 2 hours)	

University and faculty policies



Respect and professionalism



The Faculty of Engineering is committed to fostering and protecting an equitable, inclusive, and respectful work and study environment in line with University of Alberta policies and professional engineering industry standards.

The faculty prepares students to uphold industry standards to become a Professional Engineer (P.Eng). Therefore, respect, professionalism, and accountability must be upheld within the Faculty of Engineering and the University of Alberta.

Academic integrity and student conduct

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty, as well as maintaining a learning environment that fosters the safety, security, and the inherent dignity of each member of the community, ensuring students conduct themselves accordingly. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards of academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#) and the [Student Conduct Policy](#), and avoid any behaviour that could

potentially result in suspicions of academic misconduct (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts, participation in an offence) and non-academic misconduct (e.g., discrimination, harassment, physical assault). Academic and non-academic misconduct are taken very seriously and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students are expected to consult the [Academic Integrity website](#) for clarification on the various academic offences. All forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the University. Unfamiliarity of the rules, procrastination or personal pressures are not acceptable excuses for committing an offence. Listen to your instructor, be a good person, ask for help when you need it, and do your own work – this will lead you toward a path to success. Any academic integrity concern in this course will be reported to the College of Natural and Applied Sciences. Suspected cases of non-academic misconduct will be reported to the Dean of Students. The College, the Faculty, and the Dean of Students are committed to student rights and responsibilities, and adhere to due process and administrative fairness, as outlined in the [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#) and the [Student Conduct Policy](#). Please refer to the policy websites for details on inappropriate behaviours and possible sanctions.

The College of Natural and Applied Sciences (CNAS) has created an [Academic Integrity for CNAS Students](#) eClass site. Students can self-enroll and review the various resources provided, including the importance of academic integrity, examples of academic misconduct & possible sanctions, and the academic misconduct & appeal process. Students can also complete assessments to test their knowledge and earn a completion certificate.

"Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching." – C.S. Lewis

The Faculty of Engineering expects an environment free of harassment, discrimination, and bullying. We encourage you to talk to the [Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights](#) about experiences, questions, or concerns. Additional resources and support for students are attached below.

Engineering students studying in the province of Alberta must also follow the [Code of Ethics](#) set by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA).

Course outline policies, course requirements, evaluation and grading information can be found in the [University Calendar](#).



Safety during learning activities



In all Faculty of Engineering courses, labs, seminars or other learning activities, safety is of paramount importance. In some cases, laboratory work in a program requires high standards for risk management to keep potential hazards safely under control.

Anyone found to be unable to function safely in the class, lab, seminar or other learning activity may be asked to leave or be removed for their and the safety of other participants and instructors in alignment with the [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#) and [Student Conduct Policy](#). As members, or prospective members, of the engineering profession, it is your responsibility to identify and inform the proper authorities of unsafe work.

Audio and video recording



Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan.

Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Only those items specifically authorized by the instructor may be brought into the exam facility. Students must not bring any unauthorized electronic device into an examination room, including cell phones or other devices.



Student services and support

Health & Wellness Support

Counselling and Clinical Services

Free, short-term, appointment-based counselling and psychiatric services. Also offers drop-in workshops. Book an initial consultation. Visit uab.ca/CCS to learn more.

Wellness Supports Social Workers

Free one-on-one support for students in the areas of housing, finances, academics, personal wellness, life skill development, family dynamics, system navigation, and any area of life where there is a desire to invite change. Visit uab.ca/wellness to learn more.

Sexual Assault Centre

Free, anonymous, and confidential drop-in counselling. Visit uab.ca/UASAC to learn more.

The Office of Safe Disclosure & Human Rights (OSDHR)

The OSDHR advises confidentially on sensitive issues you may not feel comfortable solving on your own. Contact the OSDHR if you want to get help or to make a report while keeping your privacy. Visit uab.ca/OSDHR to learn more.

HIAR (Helping Individuals at Risk)

If you're worried about someone, contact HIAR, who can help assess risk and connect individuals to support. Learn more at uab.ca/HIAR.

Immediate External Supports

Health Link Alberta: 811
Suicide Crisis Helpline: 988





Academic support



Academic Success Centre

Access to a variety of services to maximize your academic success. Learn more at uab.ca/ASC.



Accessibility Resources

Connects students with disabilities to accommodations. Learn more at uab.ca/Access under accommodations + accessibility.



Decima Robinson Support Centre

Academic support for 100- or 200-level introductory calculus, linear algebra and statistics courses. Visit uab.ca/DSC to learn more.



Engineering Student Success Centre

The Faculty of Engineering provides drop-in tutoring for first-year courses. Visit uab.ca/ESSC to learn more.



Office of the Student Ombuds

Call for complex problems and conflict mediation. Learn more at uab.ca/ombuds.



**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**



Financial support



Student Service Centre

For awards and other funding support. Learn more at uab.ca/ask.



Campus Food Bank

The Campus Food Bank Society is an independent charity supporting University of Alberta students, faculty, staff, and alumni for up to five years. For additional information visit their website at campusfoodbank.com.

