

ME 200: Thermodynamics

Spring 2026

Instructor: Prof. Ke Tang

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Office Hours: 1:00 – 2:00 pm on Mon.

Additional office hours by appointment.

Course Website: via Canvas <https://canvas.illinois.edu/>

Lectures: 12:00 – 12:50 pm, MWF, 2100 Sidney Lu Mech Engr Bldg

iClicker will be used in class for polling questions as classwork. Please refer to the iClicker website for guidance (<https://www.iclicker.com/students/>).

Online Course Discussion: We will be using Piazza for online class discussions. This platform is designed to facilitate timely and efficient support from classmates, TA, and the instructor. Rather than emailing questions to the teaching staff, students are encouraged to post their questions on Piazza.

You can access our class on Piazza through the Canvas course website, or via the link https://piazza.com/illinois/spring2026/me_200_120261_255649/info.

Required Text: Fundamentals of Engineering Thermodynamics, 9th Ed., by Michael J. Moran, Howard N. Shapiro, Daisie D. Boettner, and Margaret B. Bailey

(<https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Fundamentals+of+Engineering+Thermodynamics%2C+9th+Edition-p-9781119721437>)

Course Description:

Thermodynamics is the foundation of thermal sciences and is widely used in the analysis and design of engineering systems. This course provides a thorough introduction to the fundamental concepts of thermodynamics, including thermodynamic systems and their behavior, thermodynamic properties, and the first and second laws of thermodynamics. Instructional materials, learning activities, assignments, and assessments are designed to develop systematic problem-solving skills from a thermodynamic perspective. The instructional team is committed to supporting students' learning and preparing them for future real-world engineering challenges. Prerequisite: MATH 241.

Topics:

- 1) Introduction (thermodynamics, systems, specific volume, pressure, and temperature)
- 2) Thermodynamic Properties (p - v - T relation, u , h , s , retrieving and evaluating properties, and ideal gas model)
- 3) The First Law of Thermodynamics (amount and rate of energy analysis)

- 4) The Second Law of Thermodynamics (direction of processes, irreversibility, entropy production, amount and rate of entropy analysis)
- 5) Typical Energy Conversion Systems (Vapor power plants, internal combustion engines, gas turbine power plants, and vapor-compression refrigeration systems)

Objectives:

At the end of this class, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and explain the concepts of system and its behaviors from the viewpoint of thermodynamics.
- 2) Identify and explain the concepts of various thermodynamic properties, as well as retrieve and evaluate the thermodynamic properties of interest.
- 3) Apply the first law of thermodynamics to conduct the amount and/or rate of energy analysis for components and systems of interest.
- 4) Identify and explain the irreversibilities in real-world processes; apply the second law of thermodynamics to determine the direction of processes and the best theoretical performance of cycles, components, and systems by conducting the amount and/or rate of entropy analysis.
- 5) Identify, explain, and analyze the performance of typical power and refrigeration systems by applying the first and second laws of thermodynamics.

Course Grading:

Classwork	5%
Homework	10%
Quiz	10%
Midterm Exam 1	20%
Midterm Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	35%

The final letter grade will be assigned using the following numerical cutoffs:

97 – 100 A+	93 – 97 A	90 – 93 A-
87 – 90 B+	83 – 87 B	80 – 83 B-
77 – 80 C+	73 – 77 C	70 – 73 C-
67 – 70 D+	63 – 67 D	60 – 63 D-
0 – 60 F		

Classwork:

Classwork is usually polling questions performed via iClicker and the completion grade will be assigned to classwork. The iClicker classwork will also be used to check attendance. Zero points will be given for the classwork assignment if you miss the lecture. You can email me ahead of time to request a leave of excused absence and in this way you can be exempt from classwork. There might be opportunities to earn extra classwork points, which can be used to compensate for points lost on classwork assignments but cannot be applied to any other assignments or exams. Two classwork assignments will be dropped off.

Homework:

Homework must be an electronic version in a single PDF file and must be submitted on the course website via Canvas. Homework must be submitted on time. An extension of one day can be automatically granted, but it will be accompanied by a 20% reduction in your score. No homework will be accepted after an extension. Homework will be graded on correctness. Your work must be neat and complete to receive full credit. "Complete" means (1) "Known", "Find", "Schematic and Given Data", "Engineering Model", and "Analysis" must be presented in your solutions; (2) all the steps showing how you reach your final answer must be presented in "Analysis"; (3) if a system is involved in your analysis, how the system is defined must be presented in your work; (4) the steps of plugging the given numbers with units into the equations must be presented in your work and the units must be presented for the numbers of results; (5) words must be used to explain your thoughts, not just equations. There might be opportunities to earn extra homework points, which can be used to compensate for points lost on homework assignments but cannot be applied to any other assignments or exams. No homework assignments will be dropped off.

Quizzes:

A quiz will be administered during the last lecture meeting of each chapter for Chapters 2 through 7. (During the last lecture meeting of Chapter 1, a practice quiz will be conducted as a classwork assignment to familiarize students with how the quizzes will be administered.) Students who miss an in-class quiz without the instructor's approval for an excused absence will receive zero points, and no makeup quizzes will be offered. Students who miss an in-class quiz with the instructor's approval for an excused absence will be offered a makeup quiz. Each quiz consists of true-or-false and multiple-choice conceptual questions. The best way to prepare for the quizzes is to review the lecture notes and the problems in the textbook section titled "Checking Understanding." Quizzes will be graded based on correctness. Students may retake each quiz once through the Canvas course website within the designated time frame. A one-day extension for the retake may be automatically granted, but it will result in a 20% score reduction. No retake quizzes will be accepted after the extension period. If a student retakes a quiz, the final quiz grade will be calculated as a weighted average: 90% of the higher score and 10% of the lower score. No quizzes will be dropped off.

Exams:

All the exams will be closed-book exams. The tentative schedule for the exams can be found in the teaching calendar. The students who need the accommodation of extra time for exams must schedule and take their exams at the DRES TAC (Testing Accommodations Center of Disability Resources and Educational Services). Please complete scheduling the exams at the DRES TAC as soon as possible, especially for the final exam, since the DRES TAC may not accept your application and schedule when they reach the capacity limit. If students fail in scheduling exams at the DRES TAC, they must attend the regular exams without the accommodation of extra exam time.

Excused Absence and Submission Responsibility:

The excused absence from class and the late submission beyond a one-day extension can be considered only if you ask for leave or an additional extension in advance. It is the

student's responsibility to make sure of a successful submission of their work. After the submission of your work on the Canvas course website, please immediately check if your work has been submitted successfully. If not, please redo the submission. If the resubmission online fails, you must email me your work for submission, as well as the evidence of the work completion on time, by the following day of the due date. The instructor will decide whether the work can be accepted or not. It is also the student's responsibility to make sure that their work is submitted correctly and completely. Zero points will be assigned for a wrong submission. No resubmission will be accepted for an incomplete submission.

Academic Integrity:

Do not duplicate anyone's work. Any duplication identified during the grading process will result in sanctions according to the Academic Integrity Policy in the Student Code.

Inclusion:

This course is committed to creating a respectful and inclusive learning environment. All students are expected to engage with one another with professionalism, empathy, and openness. Discrimination, harassment, and microaggressions of any kind are not acceptable.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AND THE GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Academic Integrity

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Code should also be considered as a part of this syllabus. Students should pay particular attention to Article 1, Part 4: Academic Integrity. Read the Code at the following URL: <http://studentcode.illinois.edu/>.

Academic dishonesty will result in a sanction proportionate to the severity of the infraction, with possible sanctions described in 1-404 of the Student Code (<https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-404/>). Every student is expected to review and abide by the Academic Integrity Policy as defined in the Student Code: <https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-401/>. As a student, it is your responsibility to refrain from infractions of academic integrity and from conduct that aids others in such infractions. A short guide to academic integrity issues may be found at <https://provost.illinois.edu/policies/policies/academic-integrity/students-quick-reference-guide-to-academic-integrity/>. Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to read this policy to avoid any misunderstanding. Do not hesitate to ask the instructor(s) if you are ever in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, or any other breach of academic integrity.

Anti-Racism and Inclusivity Statement

The Grainger College of Engineering is committed to the creation of an anti-racist, inclusive community that welcomes diversity along a number of dimensions, including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, disability status, class, age, or religious beliefs. The College recognizes that we are learning together in the midst of the Black Lives Matter movement, that Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous voices and contributions have largely either been excluded from, or not recognized in, science and engineering, and that both overt racism and micro-aggressions threaten the well-being of our students and our university community.

The effectiveness of this course is dependent upon each of us to create a safe and encouraging learning environment that allows for the open exchange of ideas while also ensuring equitable opportunities and respect for all of us. Everyone is expected to help establish and maintain an environment where students, staff, and faculty can contribute without fear of personal ridicule, or intolerant or offensive language. If you witness or experience racism, discrimination, micro-aggressions, or other offensive behavior, you are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the course director if you feel comfortable. You can also report these behaviors to Campus Belonging Resources (<https://diversity.illinois.edu/diversity-campus-culture/belonging-resources/>). Based on your report, Members of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion staff will follow up and reach out to students to make sure they have the support they need to be healthy and safe. If the reported behavior also violates university policy, staff in the Office for Student Conflict Resolution may respond as well and will take appropriate action.

Community of Care

As members of the Illinois community, we each have a responsibility to express care and concern for one another. If you come across a classmate whose behavior concerns you, whether in regards to their well-being or yours, we encourage you to refer this behavior to the Student Assistance Center (217-333-0050 or <http://odos.illinois.edu/community-of-care/referral/>). Based on your report, the staff in the Student Assistance Center reaches out to students to make sure they have the support they need to be healthy and safe.

Further, we understand the impact that struggles with mental health can have on your experience at Illinois. Significant stress, strained relationships, anxiety, excessive worry, alcohol/drug problems, a loss of motivation, or problems with eating and/or sleeping can all interfere with optimal academic performance. We encourage all students to reach out to talk with someone, and we want to make sure you are aware that you can access mental health support at McKinley Health Center (<https://mckinley.illinois.edu/>). Or the Counseling Center (<https://counselingcenter.illinois.edu/>). For urgent matters during business hours, no appointment is needed to contact the Counseling Center. For mental health emergencies, you can call 911.

Disruptive Behavior

Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students' ability to learn and an instructor's ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office for Student Conflict Resolution (<https://conflictresolution.illinois.edu>; conflictresolution@illinois.edu; 333-3680) for disciplinary action.

Emergency Response Recommendations

Emergency response recommendations can be found at the following website: <http://police.illinois.edu/emergency-preparedness/>. I encourage you to review this website and the campus building floor plans website within the first 10 days of class. <http://police.illinois.edu/emergency-preparedness/building-emergency-action-plans/>.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Any student who has suppressed their directory information pursuant to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) should self-identify to the instructor to ensure protection of the privacy of their attendance in this course. See <https://registrar.illinois.edu/academic-records/ferpa/> for more information on FERPA.

Mental Health

Significant stress, mood changes, excessive worry, substance/alcohol misuse or interferences in eating or sleep can have an impact on academic performance, social development, and emotional wellbeing. The University of Illinois offers a variety of confidential services including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, psychiatric services, and specialized screenings which are covered through the Student Health Fee. If you or someone you know experiences any of the above mental health concerns, it is strongly encouraged to contact or visit any of the University's resources provided below. Getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do for yourself and for those who care about you.

- Counseling Center (217) 333-3704
- McKinley Health Center (217) 333-2700
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800) 273-8255
- Rosecrance Crisis Line (217) 359-4141 (available 24/7, 365 days a year)

If you are in immediate danger, call 911

*This statement is approved by the University of Illinois Counseling Center

Religious Observances

Illinois law requires the University to reasonably accommodate its students' religious beliefs, observances, and practices in regard to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work requirements. You should examine this syllabus at the beginning of the semester for potential conflicts between course deadlines and any of your religious observances. If a conflict exists, you should notify your instructor of the conflict and follow the procedure at <https://odos.illinois.edu/community-of-care/resources/students/religious-observances/> to request appropriate accommodations. This should be done in the first two weeks of classes.

Sexual Misconduct Reporting Obligation

The University of Illinois is committed to combating sexual misconduct. Faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct to the University's Title IX Office. In turn, an individual with the Title IX Office will provide information about rights and options, including accommodations, support services, the campus disciplinary process, and law enforcement options.

A list of the designated University employees who, as counselors, confidential advisors, and medical professionals, do not have this reporting responsibility and can maintain confidentiality, can be found here: <https://wecare.illinois.edu/resources/students/#confidential>.

Other information about resources and reporting is available here: <https://wecare.illinois.edu/>.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the as soon as possible. To ensure that disability-related concerns are properly addressed from the beginning, students with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this class should contact Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) and see the instructor as soon as possible. If you need accommodations for any sort of disability, please speak to me after class, or make an appointment to see me or see me during my office hours. DRES provides students with academic accommodations, access, and support services. To contact DRES you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603 (V/TDD), or e-mail disability@illinois.edu. <http://www.disability.illinois.edu/>.