



**SACRAMENTO STATE**  
Construction Management

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

College of Engineering and Computer Science

**Construction Management Program**

**CM 40**  
**Properties of Construction Materials**

Course Syllabus  
Fall 2008

Instructor: Dr. Karen Lee Hansen

Lecture: M, W 2:00 – 2:50 PM  
456 Sequoia Hall

Lab: M 3:00 – 5:50 PM, W 11:00 AM – 1:50 PM, or W 3:00 – 5:50 PM  
Riverside and Santa Clara Labs

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Office Hours:  
Wednesday 11 – 11:45 AM and by appointment  
Room 4042 Riverside

## CM 40 - Properties of Construction Materials

### Course Description

CM 40 is a course focussed on the study of the engineering performance characteristics of materials. The course covers testing concepts and procedures. It includes the basic properties of metals, aggregates, cements, concrete, timber, asphalt, masonry, and plastic with emphasis on construction applications.

### Prerequisites

CM 020 and Physics 005A are the prerequisites for this class. Students must have completed these prerequisites with a grade of C- or better. Qualified students who have enrolled through Casper will be given the highest priority for admittance to overenrolled classes. Other qualified students will be admitted if room is available.

### Academic Honesty and Grading System

All students are subject to the policies described in the University Catalogue. In particular, students should be familiar with the policies described in the most recent CSUS Catalogue.

### General Course Objectives

1. To identify the basic properties that affect the engineering performance of the various materials used in construction
2. To give the students an opportunity to understand better these relationships through performance of standardized testing procedures
3. To instill in the students the proper respect for the exacting performance and evaluation procedures required to obtain valid, repeatable results

### Specific Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the engineering performance characteristics of a variety of construction materials
2. Conduct lab experiments following prescribed testing procedures
3. Evaluate the results obtained through performance of exacting testing procedures
4. Produce well-written laboratory reports
5. Explain the importance of standardized testing and why it is used within the construction industry
6. Make oral presentations regarding the engineering performance characteristics of materials

### Textbook (Required)

Somayaji, Shan. (2001). *Civil Engineering Materials*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ. ISBN: 0-13-083906-X

### Other Required Materials

Safety glasses for use in laboratories

### Course Organization

1. Lecture sessions will be held on Monday and Wednesday each week. Each student is responsible for reading the assigned material prior to the lecture session as noted on the attached schedule. This includes a careful review of the sample calculations within the assigned pages.

2. Each laboratory testing section will be conducted once each week. Students must attend the laboratory section on the day and time for which they are enrolled. As laboratory time is critically limited, each student must adequately prepare in advance for the session. In addition to the text material, students are also expected to make use of the engineering section of the CSUS Library in preparing for laboratory work and in writing of lab reports. Failure to complete the laboratory section of work satisfactorily will result in a grade of 'Incomplete.' Lab reports are due no later than one week after the laboratory has been performed. **Late lab reports will not be accepted.** (Exceptions will only be made for medical emergencies.)
  
3. Exams will be conducted as noted on the attached schedule. There will be a total of two one-hour exams and one two-hour final. The final exam will be given at the date and time to be determined by the university final exam schedule.

**Evaluation of Students' Performance**

Grades will be weighted as follows:

|                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Laboratory Participation and Reports | 40%         |
| First one-hour exam                  | 20%         |
| Second one-hour exam                 | 20%         |
| Final Exam                           | 20%         |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>100%</b> |

**Grading**

Grades will be assigned in accordance with the grading policy of the university as outlined in the section entitled "Grading System" in the current copy of the university catalog. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of "F" for the course and all other sanctions as applicable by the current university policy. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, copying another student's work.

**Tentative Lab Schedule**

| Lab No. | Date Mon. | Date Wed. | Topic                                       | Due Mon. | Due Wed. |
|---------|-----------|-----------|---|----------|----------|
| 1       | 9/8       | 9/10      | Introduction & Safety                       | 9/15     | 9/17     |
| 2       | 9/15      | 9/17      | Fineness Modulus                            | 9/22     | 9/24     |
| 3       | 9/22      | 9/24      | Concrete Mix Design & Cast Cylinders        | 10/1     | 10/3     |
| 4       | 9/29      | 10/1      | Aggregate Plant Field Trip                  | 10/6     | 10/8     |
| 5       | 10/6      | 10/8      | Construction Failure – Technical Report     | 10/13    | 10/15    |
| 6       | 10/13     | 10/15     | Field Trip                                  | 10/20    | 10/22    |
| 7       | 10/20     | 10/22     | Compression and Tension Tests of Concrete   | 10/27    | 10/29    |
| 8       | 10/27     | 10/29     | Preparation of Asphalt Test Specimens       | 11/3     | 11/5     |
| 9       | 11/3      | 11/5      | Marshall Stability Test                     | 11/10    | 11/12    |
| 10      | 11/10     | 11/12     | Timber Test                                 | 11/17    | 11/19    |
| 11      | 11/17     | 11/19     | Tension Test of Steel                       | 11/24    | 11/26    |
| 12      | 11/24     | 11/26     | Green Building Materials – Technical Report | 12/3     | 12/5     |
| 13      | 12/1      | 12/3      | Rockwell Hardness Test                      | 12/8     | 12/10    |

## Tentative Instruction Schedule

| Week | Date  | Topic                               | Text Chapters   |
|------|-------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1    | 9/3   | Introduction, Syllabus Review       |                 |
| 2    | 9/8   | Materials and Methods, Lab Safety   | 1               |
|      | 9/10  | Mineral Aggregates                  | 2               |
| 3    | 9/15  | Mineral Aggregates                  | 2               |
|      | 9/17  | Cements                             | 3               |
| 4    | 9/22  | Design Procedure in Making Concrete | 3               |
|      | 9/24  | Cements                             | 3               |
| 5    | 9/29  | Field Trip                          |                 |
|      | 10/1  | Field Trip                          |                 |
| 6    | 10/6  | Strength of Concrete                | 3               |
|      | 10/8  | Strength of Concrete                | 3               |
| 7    | 10/13 | Field Trip                          |                 |
|      | 10/15 | Field Trip                          |                 |
| 8    | 10/20 | Soils, Review                       | 1,2,3,8         |
|      | 10/22 | <b>EXAM 1</b>                       |                 |
| 9    | 10/27 | Bituminous Materials                | 6               |
|      | 10/29 | Bituminous Materials                | 6               |
| 10   | 11/3  | Wood and Wood Products              | 5               |
|      | 11/5  | Wood and Wood Products              | 5               |
| 11   | 11/10 | Masonry                             | 4               |
|      | 11/12 | Masonry, Review                     | 4,5,6           |
| 12   | 11/17 | <b>EXAM 2</b>                       |                 |
|      | 11/19 | Iron and Steel                      | 7               |
| 13   | 11/24 | Iron and Steel                      | 7               |
|      | 11/26 | Iron and Steel                      | 7               |
| 14   | 12/1  | Green Construction Materials        | Outside Reading |
|      | 12/3  | Green Construction Materials        | Outside Reading |
| 15   | 12/8  | Plastics                            | 8               |
|      | 12/10 | Final Exam Review                   | 1-8, Outside    |