MAE 110A
Thermodynamics (4 units)

Class/Laboratory Schedule: 4 lecture hours per week, 8 hours outside preparation. 12 hours/week total.

Course Coordinator(s): Keiko Nomura, Yousef Bahadori


Catalog Description: Fundamentals of engineering thermodynamics: energy, work, heat, properties of pure substances, first and second laws for closed systems and control volumes, gas mixtures. Application to engineering systems, power and refrigeration cycles, combustion.

Prerequisites: Grades of C- or better in Phys. 2C and Chem. 6A (or equivalent). Enrollment restricted to engineering majors.

- Required Course
- Technical Elective Course
- Other: ____________________________

Performance Criteria:

Objective 1
1.1 Students will demonstrate understanding of basic thermodynamic principles

Objective 2
2.1 Students will demonstrate ability to apply thermodynamics principles to engineering systems

Objective 3
3.1 Students will demonstrate ability to formulate a thermodynamic problem and use an orderly and systematic approach in the analysis and solution. This includes:
3.2 Selection of appropriate systems for analysis and identification of relevant interactions with surroundings.
3.3 Identification of known and unknown data.
3.4 Effective use of system sketch to indicate two previous items.
3.5 Use of property diagrams to indicate equilibrium states and processes.
3.6 Formulation of simplifying assumptions and idealizations.
3.7 Identification of relevant physical laws and relationships.
3.8 Reduction of governing equations and appropriate relationships using simplifying assumptions and manipulation to forms giving desired results use of tables, charts, and relations to evaluate thermodynamic properties.
3.9 Numerical calculations and unit conversions.

Objective 4
4.1 Students will demonstrate familiarity and basic understanding of thermodynamic applications and engineering systems
4.2 Students will demonstrate ability to apply principles and perform thermodynamic analyses of more complex systems
4.3 Students will demonstrate understanding of various design aspects, constraints, and impact in practical systems

Objective 5
5.1 Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic thermodynamics principles

Course Objectives:
(Numbers in parentheses refer to the specific MAE Program Outcomes)

Objective 1: To teach students the basic principles of classical thermodynamics (1a, AE12, ME15).

Objective 2: To train students to apply principles in analysis of thermodynamic systems (1a, 5e, ME15).

Objective 3: To teach good problem solving skills and written analysis (5e).

Objective 4: To introduce students to engineering applications in energy conversion, refrigeration, and combustion systems, to teach use of thermodynamics in engineering practice, and to promote awareness of impact of engineering solutions (8h, 9i, 10j, ME15).

Objective 5: To provide students a sound basis for subsequent courses in fluid mechanics, heat transfer, energy technologies and propulsion (1a, 5e, AE12, ME15).

Course Topics:
1. Basic concepts: energy, work, heat
2. Conservation of mass and energy
3. Properties of pure substances, ideal gas, incompressible substances
4. First law analysis of closed systems, control volumes, cycles
5. Second Law concepts, irreversibility
6. Carnot cycle, thermodynamic temperature scale, entropy
7. Second law analysis of closed systems, control volumes, cycles
8. Applications to power and refrigeration cycles
9. Ideal gas mixtures
10. Chemical reaction and combustion