

ChE 472: Process and Plant Design

Fall 2025

Instructor: Dr. Nellone Reid, Senior University Lecturer

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Zoom Link: [Nellone Reid's Personal Room](#)

TA: Daniel Mottern

TA Email: ddm3@njit.edu

Class Hours: ChE 472/ChE 472 Honors: Tuesday, Thursday, 4:00 - 5:50 PM, Room: Tier 411

Office Hours: Tuesday/Friday (**virtual**): 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

I consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect, and I welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, ability –and other visible and nonvisible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming and inclusive environment for every other member of the class. [I will not tolerate disrespectful language or behavior.]

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Course Description and Requirements

Process and Plant Design is the capstone course in Chemical Engineering, involving an open-ended process design project, including process simulation, equipment specifications and economics. Each student will be expected to bring all knowledge acquired in previous coursework (mathematics, physics, chemistry, thermodynamics, unit operations, reaction engineering, etc.) and apply it to this class.

Course Objectives

1. Develop improved understanding of the basic building blocks of process design, as well as their implementation in steady state process simulation tools
2. Design a given process (or parts of) including the selection and sizing of processing equipment and material of construction to meet desired needs and specifications within constraints.
3. Perform capital and operating cost analysis (cash flow, profitability analysis etc.) for a given project
4. Develop interpersonal project management/team work skills.
5. Deliver a successful written report and oral presentations that communicates technical results from a given process design project.
6. Evaluate a process's safety, health, and environmental impacts.

Learning Materials

Textbook Required: Chemical Engineering Design - Principles, Practice and Economics of Plant and Process Design (2nd edition) by Gavin Towler, Ray Sinnott, Elsevier (2013) ISBN- 9780080966595

Calculator: A high-end calculator (TI-83, TI-84 or TI-84SE) is required for solving exam problems

Software: ASPEN PLUS, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Visio, Microsoft PowerPoint

Assessment and Grading

Assignments:

All assignments will count equally. Reports demonstrating attention to detail and organization, as well as research invested into attaining a deeper understanding of a problem and its solution, will tend to score higher. Collaboration aimed at investigating / cross-teaching is encouraged. However, plagiarism will be dealt with harshly, per the Academic Integrity policy explained below.

Assignments/Groupwork	25%
Exam(s)	20%
Consultant Engagement	5%
Report Draft(s)	10%
Final Report	20%
Final Presentation	20%

****Attendance Requirement**

Final Project: Final Project grading will be heavily based on the effective and judicious use of process simulation tools and self-developed excel spreadsheets for equipment sizing and economic evaluation, and others:

- Entering components appropriately and entering conditions/stream properties correctly
- Selecting appropriate thermodynamic/physical properties method(s)
- Obtaining not just converged, but correct/appropriate solutions for a given problem
- Present (written and oral) overall stream tables using requested units of measurement
- Develop block flow diagrams, process flow diagrams and piping and instrumentation diagrams
- Develop economic assessments for a given process

Exit Survey Requirement

- Completion of the CHE 472 Senior Chemical Engineering Plant and Process Design exit survey is a mandatory requirement for successful completion of this course. Students must submit the exit survey before the final grade submission deadline to receive a passing grade in CHE 472. The survey serves as an important assessment tool for program evaluation and continuous improvement of the chemical engineering curriculum. Students who fail to complete the exit survey by the specified deadline will receive an incomplete grade until the requirement is fulfilled.
- The exit survey link and detailed instructions will be provided during the final weeks of the semester. Students are responsible for completing the survey in a timely manner and should contact the instructor immediately if they encounter any technical difficulties accessing or submitting the survey.

Course Outline

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	
1	2-Sep	Design Overview	
2	4-Sep	Product Development	
	9-Sep	Flowsheet Synthesis	
3	11-Sep	Flowsheet Simulation	
	16-Sep	Consultant Meeting	
4	18-Sep	Consultant Meeting	Literature Review
	23-Sep	Plant Site Considerations	
5	25-Sep	Open	
	30-Sep		Product Pitch
	2-Oct		Wellness Day
6	7-Oct	Linear Mass Balances	
	9-Oct	Mass and Energy Balances Review	
7	14-Oct	Open	
	16-Oct		Project Update
8	21-Oct	Heat Integration	
	23-Oct	Heat Integration	
9	28-Oct	Linear Mass Balance & Heat Integration Review	
	30-Oct	Materials of Construction	
10	4-Nov	Engineering Economy	
	6-Nov	Capital Cost Estimation	
11	11-Nov	Machine Learning in AspenPlus	
	13-Nov	HAZOP & Risk Assessment	
12	18-Nov	Practice Exam	
	20-Nov		Exam
13	25-Nov	Consultant Meeting	
	27-Nov		Thanksgiving
14	2-Dec	Open	Final Report Draft
	4-Dec	Mock Presentations	
15	9-Dec	Open	
	11-Dec	Last Day of Classes	Final Presentations

Specific Goals for the Course

The student will be able to

- perform literature review and market analysis on assigned chemical processing industry.
- prepare heat and mass balances over an integrated continuous process by hand.
- develop a simulation model to generate heat and material balance of a process, including utility consumption and design of heat exchanger, reactor, and pipe sizing.
- conduct preliminary feasibility study of the plant design assigned.
- address complex engineering problems involving wide-ranging or conflicting technical issues, no obvious solution, problems not encompassed by current standards and codes, or involving diverse groups of stakeholders.
- produce solutions that meet specified needs with consideration of public health, safety, and welfare, as well as global, cultural, social, environmental, and economic factors
- formulate economic analysis based on the calculated capital cost estimation and annual operating cost.
- identify interrelationship between equipment in the process, economic analysis, process/equipment constraints, and optimization methods to obtain optimum solution.
- communicate research, calculations, simulations, results and conclusions via oral and written text, equations, graphical data presentation, drawings, and computer display of results.

10. identify effects of particular chemical process on political, social, legal, environmental, health, safety, loss prevention, cultural, and demographic situations.
11. apply the concepts of hazard and risk to the analysis of chemical processes, infrastructure, plant site, etc., informed by engineering ethics.
12. lead/participate the main tasks and project scheduling while learning to work in teams.
13. function professionally and behave ethically.

This course explicitly addresses the following student outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7

Policies

NJIT Honor Code: The NJIT Honor Code will be upheld and any violations will be brought to the immediate attention of the Dean of Students.

Special Accommodations: If you need accommodations due to a disability please contact:

Marsha Williams-Nicholas (marsha.williamsnicholas@njit.edu; 973-596-5417), Associate Director, Office of Accessibility Resources and Services **or** **Lily Hershkowitz** (lily.hershkowitz@njit.edu; 973-596-2994), Accessibility Resources and Services Manager, Office of Accessibility Resources and Services

I am committed to creating a supportive learning environment for all students, including those who are neurodivergent. If you have specific needs or require accommodations to help you succeed in this course, please feel free to reach out to me at the beginning of the semester. I am happy to work with you to ensure you have the resources and support you need.

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Lectures

- ****Attendance is required – Three unexcused absences will lead to a 3 % points decrease in your final grade.**
- Lateness – Three unexcused tardiness will equal one absence. Three unexcused absences will lead to a 3% points decrease in your final grade.
- Cell phones should be turned off during both lectures and exams and not allowed under any circumstances.
- Laptops will be permitted only if necessary for class activities.
- No eating any time during the classes.

Course materials, office hours and correspondence

- The course Canvas page is the main platform for delivering information about the course. All relevant course materials and assignments will be posted on Canvas, so a student should check it regularly.
- The students are strongly encouraged to attend Office Hours held bi-weekly. Long questions, which require derivations will be discussed only during the Office Hours and will not be answered by email.
- Questions regarding grades can be discussed only during the Office Hours.
- E-mail and Canvas correspondence is intended only for quick questions. Questions which require a detailed discussion should be discussed in person during the Office Hours.
- All correspondence should be conducted in a professional style, using formal English.
- To assure quick response to your emails, please add “ChE472” in the subject of your emails.
- The instructor reserves the right not to respond to emails if the email does not have a greeting or a signature.

Written Reports

The written reports are to be prepared to professional standards. The title page must show the names of all team members, along with their email addresses. The report title includes the name of the design project and the specific contents of the report. The appendices should incorporate all pertinent information not included in the body of the report, including but not limited to the project description, scope, constraints, and program code. The final report should be bound in an inexpensive folder. Written reports that are unacceptable must be rewritten until they are acceptable. Occasionally students ask to rewrite reports to improve their grade. This may be permitted at the discretion of the instructor. If a report is rewritten for any reason, the final grade for the report will be the average of the grade originally assigned and the grade assigned after rewriting.

Exams and Grades

- A letter grade is based on the final score, calculated using an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with the Tables given in this syllabus. The assigned letter grade is final and cannot be negotiated.
- A student can dispute the exam scores within a week after the announcement of the score. Exam scores can be disputed during the official Office Hours, not during class time or via email.
- The graded exams must be returned within a week to be saved for the department course assessment initiative.
- Students will get 0 for not showing to exams, or any other course activity. If students miss an exam due to extreme circumstances (such as a medical problem), they need to notify the instructor via email before the beginning of the exam, and bring proof of the circumstance to the Dean of Student's office. Only in this case of official approval from the Dean of Students' office, may a makeup be given at the discretion of the instructor.
- A student must show as many details when solving a problem during an exam. Not showing the work will cause losing points even if the final answer is correct.
- Partial credits can be given for solving the exams problems.
- No partial credit will be given if there is not enough details to follow.
- The final answer should be always evaluated with respect to its reasonability. No partial credit will be given if the final answer is wrong and unreasonable, and it is not stated.
- There will be no partial credits for the questions/problems quizzes.
- Student handwriting must be legible in order to receive points.
- A student coming to dispute a grade has to bring completed homework sheets. No discussion of grades will be held without completed assignment

CRITICAL NOTES TO STUDENTS FOR ONLINE EXAMS

1. **Do NOT use scrap paper.** Write directly on the answer sheet that you plan to scan and submit. Your scanned papers will be used for grading, not your scrap papers.
2. **SHOW ALL WORK, do not skip anything!!!** Write down all fundamental equations, numerical values/units of all variables and parameters. Show all intermediate calculations by plugging numbers into the equations. Show results of intermediate calculations. You will lose a lot of points if your equations are missing. **You will get minimal score, mostly 0, for each step regardless whether your answer is correct or not if the calculations and numbers leading to the answer are missing.**
3. **If the values of parameters, variables, and intermediate calculations are missing or worse incorrect, yet your intermediate calculations and/or final answer are correct, first you will get minimal partial scores, close to 0 points per step, and additionally your paper will be flagged for misconduct investigation.**