

# MAE 4900, French in Engineering and Science – version 8/13/08

Fall 2008 semester

## Syllabus

**Michel Louge** (MYL3, 192 Rhodes Hall)

MEETING: Wednesdays 7:30 – 8:20 pm, 116 Stimson Hall.

INSTRUCTOR OFFICE HOURS: Monday 1–2 pm; Friday 3–4 pm, 192 Rhodes Hall

GRADING: 1 credit, S/U only.

PREREQUISITES: Conversational French at the elementary level, similar to FREN 1210-1220.

REQUIRED TECHNICAL BACKGROUND: High School Math and Physics.

SIGN UP AS: MAE 4900 - 649B Special Investigations in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

### Description

The course is taught in French to familiarize students with technical terms and the culture of science and engineering in francophone countries. Through informal discussions, it covers technical topics at an elementary level in mathematics, physics and chemistry, as well as several applied engineering disciplines (mechanical, electrical, civil, chemical, materials, computer science). The course also includes a brief historical perspective on French science and engineering, a description of the education system in France, and opportunities offered for studies abroad.

### Attendance policy

Because the course is based on interactions and discussions, regular attendance and participation are important. There are a total of 14 meetings every Wednesday evening from September 3 to December 3. To pass the course, students must at least attend 10 meetings.

### Exercises

Students are expected to interact in class discussions, all taking place in the French language. They will also prepare a brief 2-page paper (or a 10-minute oral presentation) on a subject of their choice to be delivered mid-term, as well as a similar exercise, of somewhat greater effort, at semester's end. Although all exercises will be carried out in French, their goal will be less to examine vocabulary and grammar than it will be to instill confidence toward taking future courses at French schools.

Grading:	{	Participation	50%
		Brief midterm paper or presentation	20%
		Brief final paper or presentation	30%

### Your instructor

Michel Louge studied in France until earning his undergraduate degree in Engineering at the École Centrale de Paris in 1978. He then obtained a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford in 1984. He has served on the Cornell Faculty since 1985 and has also taught Physics at French Universities.