



UNSW Course Outline

CEIC6711 Complex Fluids Microstructure and Rheology - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : CEIC6711

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Engineering

Academic Unit : School of Chemical Engineering

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate, Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Complex fluids are the building blocks of sophisticated consumer products, with emulsions, foams, aerosols, and particle dispersions being carefully designed to control properties including texture, viscosity, colour, taste, and feel. In this course, you will discover the links between

molecules, self-assembly, and the macroscopic properties that enable food formulation and processing, pharmaceutical development and testing, and specialty fluid chemical products.

By investigating consumer products and formulated food products, you will learn about the structures that molecules can form, why interfaces are so important to the properties of materials, and the fundamental forces and energies involved in their equilibrium and kinetic behaviour. You will be able to explain the engineering of fluid products in terms of Newtonian and non-Newtonian fluids and see how rheology in turn influences mixing, dispersing, stability and shelf-life. Through case studies and your own investigations, you will look in detail at the theoretical, experimental, and analytical advances across a range of different applications of complex fluids.

Course Aims

In this course, students will have the opportunity to learn the fundamental principles defining the microstructure and rheology of complex fluids. This will entail linking microscopic structures with macroscopic properties of everyday complex fluid products like foods and cosmetics. Additionally, a tool kit of skills including observation, interpretation, and analysis will allow students to approach complex fluids in nature and industry with curiosity and awareness of the relevant controlling phenomena. Finally, this course aims to enable students to have accurate expectations of complex fluid behaviour so that predictions can be made when new situations are encountered.

Relationship to Other Courses

None

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Describe the phenomenological changes wrought on the raw materials of a commercial product during processing to produce specific properties including viscosity, stability, or colour.
CLO2 : Explain the physicochemical basis for performance of a product during use.
CLO3 : Develop the basis for a material with specified flow and dynamic properties using key ingredients like polymers, particles, and emulsifiers.
CLO4 : Analyse experimental data on product properties to deliver quantitative measures of product performance.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Describe the phenomenological changes wrought on the raw materials of a commercial product during processing to produce specific properties including viscosity, stability, or colour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 1 • Quiz 2 • Quiz 3 • Project
CLO2 : Explain the physicochemical basis for performance of a product during use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 2 • Quiz 3 • Project
CLO3 : Develop the basis for a material with specified flow and dynamic properties using key ingredients like polymers, particles, and emulsifiers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 2 • Quiz 3 • Project
CLO4 : Analyse experimental data on product properties to deliver quantitative measures of product performance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 3 • Project

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

As indicated

Other Professional Outcomes

Engineers Australia, Professional Engineer Stage 1 Competencies

This course contributes to your development of the following EA Professional Engineer competencies:

- PE1.1 Comprehensive, theory based understanding of the underpinning natural and physical sciences and the engineering fundamentals applicable to the engineering discipline
- PE1.3 In-depth understanding of specialist bodies of knowledge within the engineering discipline
- PE1.4 Discernment of knowledge development and research directions within the engineering discipline
- PE1.5 Knowledge of engineering design practice and contextual factors impacting the engineering discipline
- PE2.1 Application of established engineering methods to complex engineering problem solving
- PE2.3 Application of systematic engineering synthesis and design processes
- PE3.3 Creative, innovative and pro-active demeanour
- PE3.4 Professional use and management of information

This course is part of UNSW Food Science specialisations approved (2021-2026) by the Institute

Additional Course Information

None

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Quiz 1 Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Friday, Week 4
Quiz 2 Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Friday, Week 7
Quiz 3 Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Friday, Week 10
Project Assessment Format: Individual	55%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Friday, Week 11

Assessment Details

Quiz 1

Assessment Overview

Online quiz on course concepts, focusing on introductory material from the course. The quiz mainly requires answering conceptual questions about the course material as well as solving numerical and analytical problems similar to the example questions from lectures, tutorials, and online learning activities. Quizzes are placed throughout the term to motivate students to stay up to date with course content and provide a rapid form of formative feedback to assess their understanding.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Describe the phenomenological changes wrought on the raw materials of a commercial product during processing to produce specific properties including viscosity, stability, or colour.

Assessment Length

30 min

Submission notes

Online

Assessment information

None

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Hurdle rules

Project must be completed

Quiz 2

Assessment Overview

Online quiz on course concepts, focusing on more sophisticated phenomena that have been discussed in the course. The quiz mainly requires answering conceptual questions about the course material as well as solving numerical and analytical problems similar to the example questions from lectures, tutorials, and online learning activities. Quizzes are placed throughout the term to motivate students to stay up to date with course content and provide a rapid form of formative feedback to assess their understanding.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Describe the phenomenological changes wrought on the raw materials of a commercial product during processing to produce specific properties including viscosity, stability, or colour.
- CLO2 : Explain the physicochemical basis for performance of a product during use.
- CLO3 : Develop the basis for a material with specified flow and dynamic properties using key ingredients like polymers, particles, and emulsifiers.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Quiz 3

Assessment Overview

Online quiz on course concepts, focusing on integrating knowledge from throughout the course. The quiz mainly requires answering conceptual questions about the course material as well as solving numerical and analytical problems similar to the example questions from lectures, tutorials, and online learning activities. Quizzes are placed throughout the term to motivate students to stay up to date with course content and provide a rapid form of formative feedback to assess their understanding.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Describe the phenomenological changes wrought on the raw materials of a commercial product during processing to produce specific properties including viscosity, stability, or colour.
- CLO2 : Explain the physicochemical basis for performance of a product during use.
- CLO3 : Develop the basis for a material with specified flow and dynamic properties using key ingredients like polymers, particles, and emulsifiers.
- CLO4 : Analyse experimental data on product properties to deliver quantitative measures of product performance.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Project

Assessment Overview

This project will consist of three tasks that you will complete as part of a team of students. There will be team evaluations where the performance of each member in the team will be assessed individually by peers.

The project requires your team to choose a commercial structured fluid product and research its properties through literature, patent, and experimental efforts. You will give three presentations on your product over the course of the term, with feedback given by lecturers and by your peers.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Describe the phenomenological changes wrought on the raw materials of a commercial product during processing to produce specific properties including viscosity, stability, or colour.
- CLO2 : Explain the physicochemical basis for performance of a product during use.
- CLO3 : Develop the basis for a material with specified flow and dynamic properties using key ingredients like polymers, particles, and emulsifiers.
- CLO4 : Analyse experimental data on product properties to deliver quantitative measures of product performance.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

General Assessment Information

Quizzes on Moodle

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

Completion of project and passing marks on Quizzes

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Lecture	Welcome and introduction to surfaces, colloids, and more (S. Prescott)
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Lecture	Introduction to complex fluid flows, phenomena, and applications (P. Spicer)
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Lecture	Self-assembly and liquid crystals (S. Prescott)
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Lecture	Non-Newtonian flows and rheology (P. Spicer)
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Lecture	Polymer solutions and polymers at interfaces (S. Prescott)
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Other	Flexibility week: use for consulting time for teams on major project
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	Rheology measurement and modeling (P. Spicer)
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Lecture	Emulsions and foams (S. Prescott)
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Workshop	Consulting time for teams on major project
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Lecture	Design of fluid microstructure, flow, and performance (P. Spicer)

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

Any adjustments will be posted to Teams and Moodle.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Some course materials, and most assessment tasks are delivered through Moodle and students should check regularly for updates and pre-reading assignments.

You can also obtain assistance from the UNSW Library. One starting point for assistance is:

<http://www.library.unsw.edu.au/servicesfor/students.html>

Recommended Resources

There are many books on the topics relevant to this course but no single textbook covers the whole spectrum. Literature and textbook references will be regularly assigned as pre-reading for lectures. Students will also be required to find information to augment lectures and help with their product development projects.

Some useful references to get you started are:

1. The structure and rheology of complex fluids, Larson, 1999
2. Surfactants and polymers in aqueous solution. Holmberg, Jo\l nsson and Lindman, 2003.
3. Colloid science: principles, methods and applications. Cosgrove, Terence, ed., 2010.
4. Bro\l ckelJlrich, Willi Meier, and Gerhard Wagner, eds. Product design and engineering: formulation of gels and pastes. 2013.
5. Norton and Fryer, Formulation Engineering of Foods, 2013.
6. Traitler, H., Coleman, B., & Burbidge, A. Food Industry R&D: A New Approach, 2016.
7. Cussler and Moggridge, Chemical Product Design,, 2011.
8. Sensory and Consumer Research in Food Product Design and Development, Howard R. Moskowitz and Jacqueline H. Beckley, 2012

Additional Costs

None

Course Evaluation and Development

Course evaluation and development feedback is welcome any time but is primarily sought through the myExperience survey run at the end of term.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Patrick Spicer		318 Hilmer	N/A	As indicated	No	Yes
Lecturer	Stuart Prescott		316A Hilmer	N/A	As indicated	No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

I. Special consideration and supplementary assessment

If you have experienced an illness or misadventure beyond your control that will interfere with your assessment performance, you are eligible to apply for Special Consideration prior to, or within 3 working days of, submitting an assessment or sitting an exam.

Please note that UNSW has a Fit to Sit rule, which means that if you sit an exam, you are declaring yourself fit enough to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration.

For details of applying for Special Consideration and conditions for the award of supplementary assessment, please see the information on UNSW's [Special Consideration page](#).

II. Administrative matters and links

All students are expected to read and be familiar with UNSW guidelines and polices. In particular, students should be familiar with the following:

- [Attendance](#)
- [UNSW Email Address](#)
- [Special Consideration](#)
- [Exams](#)
- [Approved Calculators](#)
- [Academic Honesty and Plagiarism](#)
- [Equitable Learning Services](#)

III. Equity and diversity

Those students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their teaching or learning environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to, or at the commencement of, their course, or with the Equity Officer (Disability) in the Equitable Learning Services. Issues to be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional exam and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.

IV. Professional Outcomes and Program Design

Students are able to review the relevant professional outcomes and program designs for their streams by going to the following link: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/engineering/student-life/student-resources/program-design>.

Note: This course outline sets out the description of classes at the date the Course Outline is published. The nature of classes may change during the Term after the Course Outline is published. Moodle or your primary learning management system (LMS) should be consulted for the up-to-date class descriptions. If there is any inconsistency in the description of activities between the University timetable and the Course Outline/Moodle/LMS, the description in the Course Outline/Moodle/LMS applies.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW students have a responsibility to adhere to this principle of academic integrity. Plagiarism undermines academic integrity and is not tolerated at UNSW. *Plagiarism at UNSW is defined as using the words or ideas of others and passing them off as your own.*

Plagiarism is a type of intellectual theft. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement. UNSW has produced a website with a wealth of resources to support students to understand and avoid plagiarism, visit: <student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>. The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how not to plagiarise. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

You are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and the proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment tasks.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in an honours thesis or contract cheating) even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here:

www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Work submitted late without an approved extension by the course coordinator or delegated authority is subject to a late penalty of five percent (5%) of the maximum mark possible for that assessment item, per calendar day.

The late penalty is applied per calendar day (including weekends and public holidays) that the assessment is overdue. There is no pro-rata of the late penalty for submissions made part way through a day. This is for all assessments where a penalty applies.

Work submitted after five days (120 hours) will not be accepted and a mark of zero will be awarded for that assessment item.

For some assessment items, a late penalty may not be appropriate. These will be clearly indicated in the course outline, and such assessments will receive a mark of zero if not completed by the specified date. Examples include:

- Weekly online tests or laboratory work worth a small proportion of the subject mark;
- Exams, peer feedback and team evaluation surveys;
- Online quizzes where answers are released to students on completion;
- Professional assessment tasks, where the intention is to create an authentic assessment that has an absolute submission date; and,
- Pass/Fail assessment tasks.

Faculty-specific Information

[Engineering Student Support Services](#) – The Nucleus - enrolment, progression checks, clash requests, course issues or program-related queries

[Engineering Industrial Training](#) – Industrial training questions

[UNSW Study Abroad](#) – study abroad student enquiries (for inbound students)

[UNSW Exchange](#) – student exchange enquiries (for inbound students)

[UNSW Future Students](#) – potential student enquiries e.g. admissions, fees, programs, credit transfer

Phone

(+61 2) 9385 8500 – Nucleus Student Hub

(+61 2) 9385 7661 – Engineering Industrial Training

(+61 2) 9385 3179 – UNSW Study Abroad and UNSW Exchange (for inbound students)

School-specific Information

Course Workload

Course workload is calculated using the Units-Of-Credit (UOC). The normal workload expectation for one UOC is approximately 25 hours per term. This includes class contact hours, private study, other learning activities, preparation and time spent on all assessable work.

Most coursework courses at UNSW are 6 UOC and involve an estimated 150 hours to complete, for both regular and intensive terms. Each course includes a prescribed number of hours per week (h/w) of scheduled face-to-face and/or online contact. Any additional time beyond the prescribed contact hours should be spent in making sure that you understand the lecture material, completing the set assignments, further reading, and revising for any examinations. Most 6 UoC courses will involve approximately 10-12 hours per week of work on your part. If you're not sure what to do in these hours of independent study, the resources on the [UNSW Academic Skills](#) pages offer some suggestions including: making summaries of lectures, read/summarise sections from the textbook, attempt workshop problems, reattempting workshop problems with some hints from the solutions, looking for additional problems in the textbook.

Full-time enrolment at university means that it is a *full-time* occupation for you and so you would typically need to devote 35 hours per week to your studies to succeed. Full-time enrolment at university is definitely incompatible with full-time employment. Part-time/casual employment can certainly fit into your study schedule but you will have to carefully balance your study obligations with that work and decide how much time for leisure, family, and sleep you want left after fulfilling your commitments to study and work. Everyone only gets 168 hours per week; overloading yourself with both study commitments and work commitments leads to poor outcomes and dissatisfaction with both, overtiredness, mental health issues, and general poor quality of life.

On-campus Class Attendance

Most classes at UNSW are "In Person" and run in a face-to-face mode only. Attendance and

participation in the classes is expected. As an evidence-driven engineer or scientist, you'll be interested to know that education research has shown students learn more effectively when they come to class, and less effectively from lecture catch-up recordings. If you have to miss a class due to illness, for example, we expect you to catch up in your time, and within the coming couple of days.

For most courses that are running in an "in person" mode:

- Lectures are normally recorded to provide an opportunity to review material after the lecture; lecture recordings are not a substitute for attending and engaging with the live class.
- Workshops/tutorials are not normally recorded as the activities that are run within those sessions normally cannot be captured by a recording. These activities may also include assessable activities in some or all weeks of the term.
- Laboratories are not recorded and require in-person attendance. Missing laboratory sessions may require you to do a make-up session later in the term; if you miss too many laboratory sessions, it may be necessary to seek a Permitted Withdrawal from the course and reattempt it next year, or end up with an Unsatisfactory Fail for the course.
- Assessments will often require in-person attendance in a timetabled class or a scheduled examination.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

In the School of Chemical Engineering, all written work will be submitted for assessment via Moodle unless otherwise specified. Attaching cover sheets to uploaded work is *not* required unless specifically requested for a specific assessment task; when you submit work through Moodle for assessment you are agreeing to uphold the Student Code.

Some assessments will require you to complete the work online and it may be difficult for the course coordinator to intervene in the system after the due date. You should ensure that you are familiar with assessment systems well before the due date. If you do this, you will have time to get assistance before the assessment closes.

All submissions are expected to be neat and clearly set out. Your results are the pinnacle of all your hard work and should be treated with respect. Presenting results clearly gives the marker the best chance of understanding your method; even if the numerical results are incorrect. Please make it easy for the markers who are looking at your work to see your achievement and give you due credit.

Marking guidelines for assignment submissions will be provided at the same time as assignment details to assist with meeting assessable requirements. Submissions will be marked according

to the marking guidelines provided.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage (International Center for Academic Integrity, 'The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity', T. Fishman (ed), Clemson University, 2013). At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity and plagiarism can be located at:

- The [Current Students site](#)
- The [ELISE training site](#)

The Conduct and Integrity Unit provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct>.

To help describe what we are looking for, here are some things that we consider to be quite acceptable (even desirable!) actions for many assessments, and some that we consider to be unacceptable in most circumstances. Please check with the instructions for your assessments and your course coordinator if you're unsure. As a rule of thumb, if you don't think you could look the lecturer in the eye and say "this is my own work", then it's not acceptable.

Acceptable actions

- ☒ reading/searching through material we have given you, including lecture slides, course notes, sample problems, workshop problem solutions
- ☒ reading/searching lecture transcripts
- ☒ reading/searching resources that we have pointed you to as part of this course, including textbooks, journal articles, websites
- ☒ reading/searching through your own notes for this course
- ☒ all of the above, for any previous courses
- ☒ using spell checkers, grammar checkers etc to improve the quality of your writing

- ☒ studying course material with other students

Unacceptable actions

- ☒ asking for help completing an assessment from other students, friends, family
- ☒ asking for help on Q&A or homework help websites
- ☒ searching for answers to the specific assessment questions online or in shared documents
- ☒ copying material from any source into your answers
- ☒ using generative AI tools to complete or substantially complete an assessment for you
- ☒ paying someone else to do the assessment for you

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism. Further information about referencing styles can be located at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>.

For assessments in the School of Chemical Engineering, we recommend the use of referencing software such as [Mendeley](#) or [EndNote](#) for managing references and citations. Unless required otherwise specified (i.e. in the assignment instructions) students in the School of Chemical Engineering should use either the APA 7th edition, or the American Chemical Society (ACS) referencing style as canonical author-date and numbered styles respectively.

Artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT, CodePilot, and built-in tools within Word are modern tools that are useful in some circumstances. In your degree at UNSW, we're teaching you skills that are needed for your professional life, which will include how to use AI tools responsibly plus lots of things that AI tools cannot do for you. AI tools already are (or will soon be) part of professional practice for all of us. However, if we were only teaching you things that AI could do, your degree would be worthless, and you wouldn't have a job in 5 years.

Whether the use of AI tools in an assessment is appropriate will depend on the goals of that assessment. As ever, you should discuss this with your lecturers – there will certainly be assessments where the use of AI tools is encouraged, as well as others where it would interfere with your learning and place you at a disadvantage later. Our goal is to help you learn how to ethically and professionally use the tools available to you. To learn more about the use of AI, [see](#)

[this discussion we have written](#) where we analyse the strengths and weaknesses of generative AI tools and discuss when it is professionally and ethically appropriate to use them.

While AI may might provide useful tools to help with some assessments, UNSW's policy is quite clear that taking the output of generative AI and submitting it as your own work will never be appropriate, just as paying someone else to complete an assessment for you is serious misconduct.

Asking Questions

Asking questions is an important part of learning. Learning to ask good questions and building the confidence to do so in front of others is an important professional skill that you need to develop. The best place to ask questions is during the scheduled classes for this course, with the obvious exception being questions that are private in nature such as special consideration or equitable learning plans. Between classes, you might also think of questions – some of those you might save up for the next class (write them down!), and some of them you might ask in a Q&A channel on Teams or a Q&A forum on Moodle. Please understand that staff won't be able to answer questions on Teams/Moodle immediately but will endeavour to do so during their regular working hours (i.e. probably not at midnight!) and when they are next working on this particular course (i.e. it might be a day or two). Please respect that staff are juggling multiple work responsibilities (teaching more than one course, supervising research students, doing experiments, writing grants, ...) and also need to have balance between work and the rest of their life.

School Contact Information

For assistance with enrolment, class registration, progression checks and other administrative matters, please see [the Nucleus: Student Hub](#). They are located inside the Library – first right as you enter the main library entrance. You can also contact them via <http://unsw.to/webforms> or reserve a place in the face-to-face queue using the UniVerse app.

For course administration matters, please contact the Course Coordinator.

Questions about the this course should normally be asked during the scheduled class so that everyone can benefit from the answer and discussion.