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# Civil Engineering for Mitigation of Risk from Natural Hazards

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## Course: Dynamics of Structures

Lecturers: Prof. Gerard O'Reilly, Prof.ssa Giulia Scalet

Teaching Assistant: Tomas Mejia Saldarriaga

Date: 22/09/2025 – 21/10/2025

Classroom:

- Aula Ricciardi, Dept Civil Eng and Architecture, via Adolfo Ferrata 3, Pavia (GS)
- Aula 1-17/1-16, IUSS, Palazzo del Broletto, Piazza della Vittoria 15, Pavia (GOR)

## Brief Contents Description and Course Syllabus

It is commonly accepted that every structural engineering major should have a minimum introduction to dynamics of structures to serve as a prelude to more advanced courses in earthquake engineering, blast-resistant design, random vibrations and wind engineering. This course is designed to serve this purpose. It is a basic graduate level course which studies the vibration characteristics and dynamic response of structural systems to dynamic excitations generated by earthquakes, wind, impact and blast.

By the end of the course, the student is expected to have a basic understanding of:

- Discrete single-degree, multi-degree and continuous vibratory systems,
- Free and forced vibration response of discrete and continuous systems,
- Applications in structural design.

The only requirement for this course is a customary exposure to an introductory course on dynamics, such as the basic undergraduate course: Dynamics of Rigid Bodies. The knowledge of basic mathematics, particularly the solution differential equations and numerical methods are also used extensively in this course.

## Suggested reading material

In addition to specific papers and handouts indicated/delivered during classes, the following general textbooks are recommended.

- Chopra A., "Dynamics of Structures", Prentice Hall, Third Edition, 2007
- Clough R.W., Penzien J., "Dynamics of structures", Computers & Structures Inc, 2003

## Software

- Matlab: The Mathworks, 2012. MATLAB 2012b Release, Statistics Toolbox, available at <http://www.mathworks.com/products/matlab/>.
- Seismosoft: "SeismoStruct - A computer program for static and dynamic nonlinear analysis of framed structures". 2018. (<http://www.seismosoft.com/seismostruct>)
- SAP2000, Computers and Structures, Inc., 2020.
- Mazzoni et al.: "OpenSEES - The open system for earthquake engineering simulation", PEER, UC Berkeley, 2006. (<http://opensees.berkeley.edu>)

## Grading

Homework assignments: 50%

Final exam: 50%

## Course schedule

Week	Date	Lecture hours Italian Time	Tutorial hours GMT	Subject Dynamics of Structures	Tot h
1 (GS) @Aula Ricciardi Dicar	23/09/25 Tue	14:00-17:00		Equation of motion for SDOF systems, its solution	3
	24/09/25 Wed	09:00-12:00		Free vibration response, viscous damping, Response to harmonic excitation	3
	26/09/25 Fri	09:00-12:00		Response to general excitation, response spectrum	3
	24/09/25 Wed		15:00-17:00	Tutorial on the modelling of SDOF systems	2
	26/09/25 Fri		14:00-16:00	Tutorial on response spectrum	2
2 (GS) @Aula Ricciardi Dicar)	29/09/25 Mon	11:00-13:00		Generalized SDOF systems	2
	01/10/25 Wed	09:00-12:00		Numerical evaluation of dynamic response for SDOF systems (I)	3
	03/10/25 Fri	09:00-12:00		Numerical evaluation of dynamic response for SDOF systems (II)	3
	29/09/25 Mon		14:00-17:00	Tutorial on numerical solution of SDOF systems (I)	3
	02/10/25 Thu		15:00-17:00	Tutorial on numerical solution of SDOF systems (II)	2
	03/10/25 Fri		14:00-16:00	Tutorial on homework problems	2
3 (GOR) @IUSS	06/10/25 Mon	09:00-12:00 AULA 1.17		Equations of motion for MDOF systems, Static condensation	3
	07/10/25 Tue	14:00-17:00 AULA 1.17		Natural frequencies and modes, Modal and spectral matrices	3
	08/10/25 Wed	09:00-12:00 AULA 1.16		Orthogonality of modes, Normalisation of modes, Solution for undamped free vibration	3
	06/10/25 Mon		14:00-16:00 AULA 1.17	Tutorial on assignment problem	2
	08/10/25 Wed		14:00-16:00 AULA 1.16	Tutorial on assignment problem	2
	09/10/25 Thu		14:00-16:00 AULA 1.17	Tutorial on assignment problem	2
4 (GOR) @IUSS	13/10/25 Mon	09:00-12:00 AULA 1.17		Damping in structures, Constructing a damping matrix, Solution for damped free vibration	3
	15/10/25 Wed	09:00-12:00 AULA 1.17		Modal response analysis for damped forced vibration, and for linear system subjected to earthquakes	3
	17/10/25 Fri	09:00-12:00 AULA 1.17		Response spectrum analysis, Distributed mass systems, Equivalent SDOF analysis	3
	13/10/25 Mon		14:00-16:00 AULA 1.17	Tutorial on assignment problem	2
	15/10/25 Wed		14:00-16:00 AULA 1.17	Tutorial on assignment problem	2
	20/10/25 Mon	14:00 Aula Didattica 1 (Eucentre)		Final Exam	3