Welcome to Strengths I (Spring 2020 crn# 31272)

Dear Student,

My name is Jeff Jones, and I will be your instructor in the upcoming online version of Strengths I (ENGR252A). This letter is to inform you of some important details prior to the commencement of this online class. Please make sure you do not have any conflicts with the exam times listed below. Please read this page carefully!!

For many of you this will be your first true engineering class and I would like to congratulate you on making it to this point. It is quite an achievement to have passed all of the math and physics classes required to take this class, you are the "cream of the crop"!

Tentative Test Dates (you must clear your schedule to take the tests at these times):

You do not need to come to San Luis Obispo, CA for the tests as there is an option to have it proctored near you (https://cuesta.instructure.com/eportfolios/135/Proctor_Info). Most students will take the test in San Luis Obispo with me because it is more convenient rather than finding a proctor. In any case, everyone will be taking the tests on the same day and time, no exceptions:

Test 1: Friday TBD at 12:00pm Pacific Time in rm 4118 (or at a proctoring center)
Test 2: Friday TBD at 12:00pm Pacific Time in rm 4118 (or at a proctoring center)

Time Requirement

This class is an extremely important class and requires about 12 hours a week of studying during a regular term. In the summer plan on 20 hours/week because of the accelerated pace.

Book Requirements

You will not be purchasing the course materials in the bookstore but you will be required to purchase them online. https://cuesta.instructure.com/eportfolios/135/Access_Fee Access fee: $69.

Optional: The textbook "Mechanics of Materials, 4th ed. by Beer/Johnston" is an optional text. You can pick up your hardcopy for the semester at the Reserve Desk in the library. Please return it at the end of the term, otherwise you will be billed $50 for it. This book is completely optional and nothing will be assigned from it. This is an older edition and cannot be purchased in the bookstore. You are free to use the reserve copies or go online to amazon.com and buy a used copy for a fraction of what the current version is selling for, about $240.
Web Site Requirements

We will be using Canvas (https://cuesta.instructure.com/) as this is the site that will be managing the course and it is required. It will have the weekly activities including quizzes, videos, and homework assignments. I will send you more information as we get closer to the start of the class.

How to use Canvas

Canvas is an online classroom management system that this class will be using. For more information on how to use it check out the "How-To" links here:

https://www.cuesta.edu/about/depts/compserv/howto_materials_students.html

Links to an external site.

Resources for Learning

- Post questions in the class discussion forum.
- Watch the assigned video lectures online on Canvas.
- Read the book or the various links provided.
- Visit the Tutorial Center https://www.cuesta.edu/student/resources/ssc/index.html
  Links to an external site.
- Homework and quizzes.
- Study groups.
- Disabled Student Services:
  http://www.cuesta.edu/student/studentservices/dsps/index.html
  Links to an external site.

Contacting the Instructor

If you have a non-private question then please post it in the class discussion forum on Canvas, this way other students can benefit from my reply. If it is a private message, then please use the messaging system from within Canvas (Called the “Inbox”) rather than sending an email via my Cuesta email account. Using the Inbox within Canvas will allow me to have a record of our conversation associated with the class and also won't get marked as spam that may happen with the Cuesta email account. If none of the above contact options work then you can email me at my Cuesta email account: jjones@cuesta.edu

Proctoring
Most students will be taking the exams at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, CA and don't need to arrange for a proctor. Students taking the exams at remote locations using a proctor must coordinate and finalize with the instructor the required proctor information (https://cuesta.instructure.com/eportfolios/135/Proctor_Info). Even if you are taking the exams with a proctor you will still need to take the tests at the same time as the students taking the tests at Cuesta College. There are no provisions for anyone who misses any of these exams. Let me know if you are having problems with anything related to the course.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

FAQs: https://cuesta.instructure.com/eportfolios/135/FAQs