University of Florida

M.E. RINKER, Sr. SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

BCN 1210 Construction Materials

Fall 2025 | Syllabus

Honor Code:	Students are expected to comply with the spirit and intent of the University of Florida Honor Code, which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."
Instructor:	Eileen Pesantes-Tavares, PhD
Office Location:	Rinker 313
Meeting Periods:	Online Course
Office Hours:	M, W 110:30-11:30 or by Appointment.
Email:	Mail tool in e-Learning in Canvas (preferred method)
Prerequisites:	None
Objectives:	Students will learn elements relating to the principles of construction methods and techniques. Basic understanding of the built world that surrounds us and how it is constructed.
Description:	The course provides a general overview of basic construction materials, properties, manufacture, and uses.
Method:	6 modules with assignments that should be completed by set deadlines. Students are responsible for the content of all reading materials.
Recommended Text:	Simmons, H. Leslie: Olin's Construction Principles, Materials and Methods; John Wiley & Sons, Recent Edition
Tests:	There will be six (6) quizzes, one after each module. Once you start, you have an hour to finish. Quizzes will not be reset. If you want to discuss quiz results with the instructor, you must make an appointment. NO MAKEUP QUIZZES.
Individual Course Paper:	This paper will be based on individual research covering a topic of the student's choice related to green/sustainable materials. See final paper submission document on Canvas.

Grade Makeup: Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Modules Assignments (this is subject to change)	200
6 quiz grades @ 50 points	300
Individual Course Paper	100
	600

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Grade Scale: Grading based on points earned as a percentage of total points:

A=93-100	C=73-76,99
A-=90-92.99	C-=70-72.99
B+=87-89.99	D+=67-69.99
B=83-86.99	D=63-66.99
B-=80-82.99	D-=60-62.99
C+=77-79.99	E<60

NETIQUETTE, COMMUNICATION COURTESY POLICY: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. The class also may have guest speaker presentations. As common courtesy to our guests, refrain from using any electronics during their presentations unless you are taking notes.

COMMUNICATION

- Use the e-Learning in Canvas environment to send an email to the instructor and teaching assistant. Do not e-mail the course instructor and teaching assistant outside of the e-Learning in Canvas system because emails received outside of e-Learning will not receive a response. Please allow 36 hours for a response to your email. The instructor and teaching assistant reserve the right not to respond to course inquiries on the weekend.
- You are responsible for addressing grades/omissions within one week of the grade being posted on e-Learning in Canvas. After one week, the grade/input stands for the class regardless of cause or circumstance.

ACCESSING UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC POLICIES AND CAMPUS RESOURCES: To support consistent and accessible communication of university-wide student resources, please use this link to academic policies and campus resources: https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies.

TOPICS:

1. Existing Conditions
2. Soils and Rocks
3. Material Properties
4. Concrete
5. Masonry
6. Steel
7. Wood
8. Thermal protection
9. Roofing
10. Openings
11. Finishes
12. Fire suppression
13. Plumbing systems
14. Mechanical systems
15. Electrical systems
16. Asphalt

Note from the instructor: *The syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicate clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.*