GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2024-2025

Composites (E900069)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 6.0 **Study time 180 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	English	Gent
B (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Van Paepegem, Wim	TW11	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	**crdts**	**offering**
Bridging Programme Master of Science in Engineering: Ships and Marine Technology	6	A
Bridging Programme Master of Science in Sustainable Materials Engineering	6	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture(main subject Architectural Design and Construction Techniques)	6	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Control Engineering and Automation)	6	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Electrical Power Engineering)	6	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Maritime Engineering)	6	B
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Maritime Engineering)	6	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Mechanical Construction)	6	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Mechanical Energy Engineering)	6	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture(main subject Urban Design and Architecture)	6	A
International Master of Science in Advanced Design of Sustainable Ships and Offshore Structures	6	A
International Master of Science in Sustainable and Innovative Natural Resource Management	6	A
Master of Science in Chemical Engineering	6	A
Master of Science in Chemical Engineering	6	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering	6	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering Technology	6	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Ships and Marine Technology	6	B
Master of Science in Engineering: Ships and Marine Technology	6	A
Master of Science in Materials Engineering	6	B
Master of Science in Mechanical and Electrical Systems Engineering	6	A
Master of Science in Sustainable Materials Engineering	6	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Composites, fibre reinforced plastics, technology, fabrication, sandwiches, mechanical behaviour, non-destructive characterisation

Position of the course

This course deals with an introduction to the technology and the mechanics of fibre reinforced materials. In general, products made of those materials are quite

different from traditional isotropic materials, such as metals and plastics.
The course treats on the technology, the basic mechanics, and some specific aspects of fibre reinforced materials.
As this course is also meant for other disciplines than pure materials science, it mainly focuses on the mostly used fibre reinforced plastics.

Contents

- Technology of fibre reinforced materials: fibre reinforced composites, review of reinforcing fibres and matrices, properties and applications, fabrication processes, sandwich constructions
- Stiffness and strength: micromechanics of a layer, macromechanics of a layer, classical laminate theory, interlaminar stresses
- Mechanical behaviour and testing: fracture and damage mechanics, static testing, fatigue, impact, non-destructive testing and characterisation
- Design aspects

Initial competences

Mechanics of materials, basic material science

Final competences

1 To understand and to know basic terminology of the technology and the manufacturing of composite materials
2 To be able to deal with the mechanics and the design of layered, orthotropic materials
3 To be able to handle in a judicious way orders of magnitude and estimations of material properties
4 To be able to make a founded choice of a candidate material (class) for a specific application
5 To be able to calculate the stiffness and strength of laminates under simple load situations

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Practical, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Classroom lectures; Lab sessions; Computer-assisted problem solving

Study material

Type: Handouts

Name: Composites
Indicative price: € 20
Optional: no
Language : English
Number of Pages : 300
Oldest Usable Edition : Version 2023
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : Yes
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

References

- An introduction to composite materials, Derek Hull, Cambridge Solid State Science Series, ISBN 0 521 28392
- Materials Science and Engineering an introduction, W.D. Callister Jr.

Course content-related study coaching

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

During examination period: written examination with closed books

Calculation of the examination mark