ME 431: Design of Solar Thermal Systems

Course description: Design of solar thermal systems for heating and cooling of buildings, heating of water, electrical generation, industrial processes, and distillation.

Number of credits: 3

Course Coordinator: R.F. Richards

Prerequisites by course: ME 301; ME 303; ME 304; admitted to major in Mechanical Engineering

Prerequisites by topic:
1. First Law of Thermodynamics
2. Power and Refrigeration Cycles
3. Basic Heat Transfer


Course objectives:
1. Understand the basic principles of design and operation of solar thermal energy conversion
2. Apply those principles to a wide variety of systems and applications

Topics covered:
1. Solar Radiation
2. Solar economics
3. Photovoltaics
4. Flat Plate Solar Collectors
5. Passive Solar Heating Systems
6. Active Solar Heating Systems
7. Solar Hot Water Systems
8. Solar Lighting
9. Concentrating Solar Collectors
10. Solar heat engines for electricity generation
11. Politics and policy

Expected learning outcomes: Upon successful completion of the course, the students will be able to:
1. Understand how to estimate available solar energy for a given site and application
2. Design a passive solar heating system for a building
3. Design an active solar heating system for a building
4. Understand the design and economics of solar thermal power plants

Class schedule: Three 50-minute lectures per week, for one semester.
Laboratory schedule: None

Contribution to meeting the professional component: Engineering Topics

Relationship of course to student outcomes:
1. School of MME ME educational objectives: 1, 2 and 3
2. School of MME ME program outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
3. ABET EC2019, Criterion 3 program outcomes: 1, 2

Prepared by: Andrea Butcherite and R.F. Richards Date: May 30, 2018

POLICIES
A. Reasonable Accommodation (the nature of the particular course determines which one applies):
   - Pullman Campus. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please either visit or call the Access Center (Washington Building 217; 509-335-3417) to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor. All accommodations MUST be approved through the Access Center.
   - WSU Online Course. Reasonable accommodations are available in online classes for students with a documented disability. All accommodations must be approved through your WSU Disability Services office. If you have a disability and need accommodations, we recommend you begin the process as soon as possible. For more information contact a Disability Specialist on your home campus: Pullman or WSU Online (http://accesscenter.wsu.edu), Spokane (http://spokane.wsu.edu/students/current/studentaffairs/disability/), Tri-Cities (http://www.tricity.wsu.edu/disability), Vancouver (http://studentaffairs.vancouver.wsu.edu/student-resource-center/disability-services).

B. Academic Integrity
WSU expects all students to behave in a manner consistent with its high standards of scholarship and conduct. Students are expected to uphold these standards both on and off campus and acknowledge the university's authority to take disciplinary action. The Standards of Conduct for Students can be found at http://conduct.wsu.edu.

C. WSU Safety
WSU is committed to maintaining a safe environment for its faculty, staff, and students. Safety is the responsibility of every member of the campus community and individuals should know the appropriate actions to take when an emergency arises. In support of our commitment to the safety of the campus community the University has developed a Campus Safety Plan, http://safetyplan.wsu.edu. It is highly recommended that you visit this web site as well as the University emergency management web site at http://oem.wsu.edu to become familiar with the information provided.