Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Doctoral School

COURSE CARD

1. Basic information

Course name in English:	Probabilistic approaches in Engineering	
Course name in Polish:	Metody probabilistyczne w inżynierii	
Number of hours:	30	
Type of course:	Elective course	
Form of course:	lecture	
Code of course:		
Course leader:	Prof. dr hab. inż. Wojciech Puła	
Faculty of the course leader:	W2 Faculty of Civil Engineering	
Email address of the course leader:	Wojciech.pula@pwr.edu.pl	
Scientific discipline(s) assigned to the course (doctoral students representing the marked disciplines can participate in the course):	Architecture and urban planning	☐
	Automation, electronic, electrical engineering and space technologies	☐
	Information and communication technology	☐
	Biomedical engineering	☐
	Chemical engineering	☐
	Civil engineering, geodesy and transport	☒
	Materials engineering	☐
	Mechanical engineering	☐
	Environmental engineering, mining, and energy	☐
	Mathematics	☐
	Chemical sciences	☐
	Physical sciences	☐
	Management and quality studies	☐

2. Objectives

To enable PhD students to use probabilistic methods within their PhD theses.

To demonstrate students the rules of probability based design

3. Content

Detailed information about the course content, including topics and form of classes.

No.	Topic	Number of hours	Form of classes
1	General comments on uncertainty in geotechnical analyses. Sources and types of uncertainty in geomechanical properties	1	lecture
2	Basic discrete probability theory	1	lecture
3	Some basic concepts of probability measures theory	2	lecture

4	Random variables and probability distributions, expected values, variance, moments of higher order. Random vectors, stochastic independence, covariance/correlation. Common discrete and continuous distributions	2	lecture
5	Convergence of probability distributions. Limit theorems	1	lecture
6	Stochastic processes and random fields	4	lecture
7	Probabilistic modelling of soil properties. Estimation problems. Theory and examples	2	lecture
8	Structural reliability methods and reliability assessments in geomechanics	3	lecture
9	Reliability oriented simulation techniques. Random fields simulation	2	lecture
10	Advanced reliability evaluations. Bearing capacity of shallow foundations	2	lecture
11	Advanced reliability evaluation. Response surface method and its application to foundation settlement problem	2	lecture
12	Stochastic finite element method and the random element method (RFEM). An overview	2	lecture
13	Applications of RFEM to various geomechanical problems	2	lecture
14	Reliability based design. General rules and examples	1	lecture
15	Calibration of characteristic and design values in conjunction of rules given by Eurocodes	3	lecture

4. Prerequisites

List of prerequisites relating to knowledge, skills and other competences for course participants.

A basic course in soil mechanics and foundation engineering

A basic course in probability and statistics

A course in calculus

5. Learning outcomes

List of learning outcomes at level 8 of the Polish Qualifications Framework assigned to the course (mark the learning outcomes in the last column).

Symbol	Learning outcome	
	KNOWLEDGE. Doctoral student knows and understands:	
SzD_W3	the main trends in the development of the scientific or artistic disciplines covered in the curricula;	☒
SzD_W4	research methodology;	☒

SzD_W5	the rules for the dissemination of scientific results, including in open access mode;	☐
SzD_W6	the fundamental dilemmas of modern civilization;	☐
SzD_W7	the legal and ethical conditions of scientific activity;	☐
SzD_W8	the economic and other relevant conditions of scientific activity;	☐
SzD_W9	basic principles of knowledge transfer to the economic and social spheres and commercialisation of results of scientific activity and know-how related to these results.	☐
	SKILLS. Doctoral student is able to:	
SzD_U2	use knowledge from different fields of science or art to creatively identify, formulate and innovatively solve complex problems or perform research tasks, in particular: - define the purpose and subject of scientific research, formulate a research hypothesis, - develop research methods, techniques and tools, and use them creatively, - draw conclusions on the basis of scientific research; critically analyse and evaluate the results of scientific research, expertise and other creative work and their contribution to knowledge development; transfer the results of scientific activities to the economic and social spheres;	☒
SzD_U3	communicate on specialised topics to the extent that they enable an active participation in the international scientific community;	☒
SzD_U4	disseminate research results, including in popular forms;	☒
SzD_U5	initiate debates and participate in a scientific discourse;	☐
SzD_U6	be able to speak a foreign language at B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages to a level that enables them to participate in the international scientific and professional environment;	☐
SzD_U7	plan and implement an individual or collective research or creative activity, including in an international environment;	☐
SzD_U8	independently plan and act for one's own development and inspire and organize the development of others;	☒
SzD_U9	plan classes or groups of classes and implement them using modern methods and tools.	☐
	SOCIAL COMPETENCES. Doctoral student is ready to:	
SzD_K3	fulfilling the social obligations of researchers and creators, initiate public interest activities, thinking and acting in an entrepreneurial way;	☐
SzD_K4	maintaining and developing the ethos of research and creative environments, including: - carrying out scientific activities in an independent manner, - respecting the principle of public ownership of research results, taking into account the principles of intellectual property protection.	☒

6. Evaluation

Short description of the method(s) used to evaluate the learning outcomes assigned to the course, e.g., exam, test, report, presentation, etc.

Final test

7. Teaching methods

Short description of the teaching methods used during the course, e.g., multimedia presentation, discussion, literature studies, developing written documents, own work, etc.

Classical lecture

Multimedial presentations

Discussions of problems

8. Literature

List of primary and secondary literature used to prepare the course and including additional knowledge for participants, e.g., books, textbooks, research papers, standards, web pages, etc.

PRIMARY LITERATURE:

[1] FENTON G.A., GRIFFITHS D.V. (2008), Risk assessment in geotechnical engineering. John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, N.J.
[2] EUROCODE 7 AND RELIABILITY-BASED DESIGN. IN: RELIABILITY BASED DESIGN IN GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING, TAYLOR AND FRANCIS, LONDON–NEW YORK,
[3] BAECHER G.B., CHRISTIAN J.T. (2003), RELIABILITY AND STATISTICS IN GEOTECHNICAL
[4] ENGINEERING. J. WILEY & SONS, CHICHESTER.
[5] FISZ M. (1980), PROBABILITY THEORY AND MATHEMATICAL statistics. Krieger Publ. Co.

SECONDARY LITERATURE:

[1] DITLEVSEN O., MADSEN H.O. (1996), STRUCTURAL RELIABILITY METHODS. JOHN WILEY & SONS, CHICHESTER.
[2] PROBABILISTIC METHODS IN GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING. ED. BY D. V. GRIFFITHS,
[3] GORDON A. FENTON. WIEN; NEW YORK: SPRINGER, COP. 2007. S. 127-145. ISBN: 978-3-211-73365-3.
[4] MELCHERS R.E. (2018), STRUCTURAL RELIABILITY. ANALYSIS AND PREDICTION. 3RD EDITION, JOHN WILEY & SONS.

9. Other remarks

Additional remarks, comments, (e.g., language of the course)

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