

# MSE 498: Magnetic Materials and Applications, Fall 2021

**Lectures:** Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 am – 12:20 pm, 1109 Siebel  
Lecture recordings and presentation slides will also be made available online via [Canvas](#)

**Instructor:** Prof. Axel Hoffmann  
**Office:** Materials Research Laboratory 1021      **Email:** [axelh@illinois.edu](mailto:axelh@illinois.edu)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays or Thursdays 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm, or via prior appointment  
All office hour meetings will be in-person in MRL 1021,  
or via [Zoom](#) upon prior arrangement

## Mulling Magnetism Monday Morning (M<sup>4</sup>)

Starting in **week 2, each Monday at 8:30 am** we will have 30 minutes, where we can informally discuss any random ideas that you may have with respect to magnetism, whether they are related directly to class topics or not. Feel free to bring your coffee and simply have fun with magnets!

This session will be conducted via [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 832 4923 9063), and the meeting password will be made available in class.

## Course Description

This course will introduce the fundamental concepts that underly the practical use of magnetic materials. We will discuss the different types of magnetic materials, and the basic energies that drive their physical behaviors. A particular focus will also be on the dynamic properties of magnetic materials and their interactions with electrical excitations. These concepts will be reinforced via a micromagnetic simulation project, which allows to directly explore the intricate interplay between different magnetic interactions. The course will discuss these magnetic phenomena in the context of different applications, ranging from biomedical applications to current information technologies. At the same time, we will discuss frontiers of magnetism research, which will be reinforced through the literature review of recently published results.

## Scope

- Fundamentals of magnetic materials
- Magnetic measurement approaches
- Soft- and hard-magnetic materials
- Magnetism and magnetic applications in biology and medicine
- Magnetic thin films
- Magnetization dynamics and spin transport
- Magnetic information technologies

**Textbook:***Magnetism and Magnetic Materials*

By J. M. D. Coey

Cambridge University Press (2012)

also available electronically from [UIUC library](#)**Lecture policy:**

Attendance and class participation is expected, although all lecture material will also be made available online via [Canvas](#). All the material presented in class is fair game for the homework and examinations. Furthermore, you are expected to check [Canvas](#) and your email regularly for course updates.

**Expectations:**

To succeed in this class, you will need to

- Read the assigned reading *before* coming to class, and formulate questions;
- Participate in class;
- Make sure you understand the homework problems and solutions;
- Be able to *correctly* solve problems;
- Seek out help when you have trouble.

**Grading:**

57711 (Undergraduate)		57708 (Graduate)	
Homework	30%	Homework	20%
Micromagnetic simulation project	20%	Micromagnetic simulation project	15%
Midterm	20%	Midterm	15%
		Literature review	15%
		Peer review	10%
Final	30%	Final	25%

All assessment scores will be stored in the gradebook in [Canvas](#). Any errors in grade reporting appearing in the gradebook must be reported within 1 week of the grade being posted in the gradebook or by the last day of class, whichever is earlier. If you have a missing grade, contact the instructor.

Numerical total score corresponds to the following final grades:

A+	(97–100)	B+	(87–89)	C+	(77–79)	D+	(67–69)	
A	(93–96)	B	(83–86)	C	(73–76)	D	(63–66)	F (0–59)
A-	(90–92)	B-	(80–82)	C-	(70–72)	D-	(60–62)	

### **Course Materials, Discussions and Announcements:**

Course materials, including homework, lecture notes, and lecture recordings will be made available through our course [Canvas](#) website at <https://canvas.illinois.edu>. Furthermore, the lecture recordings will also be accessible through a dedicated channel in [Mediaspace](#). Discussions and announcements related to course material will be also facilitated via [Canvas](#). If you need to make a private post, then please email the instructor ([axelh@illinois.edu](mailto:axelh@illinois.edu)) directly. If you have any problems or feedback for the [Canvas](#) developers then follow one of the different help options available on the [Canvas](#) website.

### **Homework policy:**

Homework will be weekly assigned via the [Canvas](#) website on Tuesdays and will typically be due the following week on **Thursdays at 11:59 pm**. The homework will consist of an assignment sheet with problems and your solution must be submitted to [Canvas](#) via a PDF file. The *only format* that will be accepted for submission is a single, properly ordered PDF, in portrait format; your name must be printed legibly on the top of the first page. A PDF file consisting of a scanned version of your paper copy will be acceptable. Late submission will be penalized by 50% for each day late. The homework should be worked on independently. After grading, any regrade requests will have to be submitted within *one week* of receiving the graded homework.

### **Micromagnetic simulation project:**

A micromagnetic simulation project will be assigned at the end of **week 3** to groups of  $3 \pm 1$  students during the second week of class. Using an online simulation tool will allow to investigate basic magnetic problems that have relevance to typical current research questions. During week 7 and week 9, we will schedule 30 minutes meetings with each project group to discuss progress with the projects. Presentation of the results will be given during class in **week 11** and reports will be due at the end of **week 11**.

### **Literature review (Graduate students only):**

Objective: Read a recent (< 10 years old) journal article on a new magnetic phenomena, material or application. Provide a detailed report that fully discusses the approach, summarizes current state-of-the-art in the topic area, and evaluate novelty of the results.

Due dates: You will need to select an article of your choice by the end of **week 3 (9/10)**. Dates for presentations will be assigned in week 4 and start in **week 5 (9/21)**. Written reports will be due within one week after the presentation.

Length and formatting:

Maximum of 5 pages (8.5" x 11" paper with 1 inch margins and 11 point minimum font size);

Maximum of 2 figures

Cite all references; bibliography does not count towards page limit

Presentation:

15 minutes + 5 minutes for discussion (times may be adjusted depending on class attendance); presentations will be given at the end of each lecture starting in **week 5**.

Literature review papers and presentations will be graded on substance and clarity. The grade will be based by 50% on the evaluation from your peers and 50% by the instructor. Note that 10% of your own grade will be for submitting your own peer-evaluation within one week after submission of the literature review paper from your fellow students. Thus, expect to provide one peer evaluations per week starting in week 6.

### **Written reports:**

Both the micromagnetic simulation project and the literature review (for graduate students only) will require the submission of written reports. Written reports are assigned to practice the communication of engineering concepts in writing. They will be graded based on presentation, neatness, correct use of symbols, quality of drawings and diagrams, and clarity of explanation (60%). Reports should be neat and organized, hand-written or typed. Tables and graphical representations of results should be generated using some software program such as Excel, TecPlot, MatLab, Origin, etc., rather than being hand-drawn. Correct discussion of the scientific problem and correct conclusions are important (40%). Point breakdown for the written report:

- 20% Comprehensive motivation for the project/article
- 20% Correct presentation of the underlying fundamental science
- 20% Presentation quality
- 20% Clarity of discussion
- 20% Use of clear figures

### **Examinations:**

There will be a Mid-Term Exam on **October 14**, and a Final Exam during the week of **December 6**. Both exams will be closed book and closed notes. The exams will be in-person in either the classroom during regular time (midterm) or in a space and time to be determined (final).

### **Obtaining Help:**

The main two ways to obtain help are online via [Canvas](https://canvas.luc.edu) or in person at the office hours. In cases of emergencies related to exams (*e.g.*, illness) you should email your professor at the earliest possible opportunity.

<https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/482802970>

### **Absences:**

Excused Absence Request Form: <https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/482802970>

1. Excuses from assessments will only be given in the following circumstances:
  - a. Illness
  - b. Personal crisis (*e.g.*, car accident, required court appearance, death of close relative)
  - c. Required attendance at an official UIUC activity (*e.g.*, varsity athletics, band concert)
2. In all cases you must complete the online Excused Absence Request Form and upload a scan of the official written documentation explaining your absence.
3. In cases (a) or (b) an official excuse letter from the Dean on Duty must be submitted via the online form within 2 weeks of the due date of the missed assessment, but no later

than reading day (December 9). In cases of extended or unusual illness, late submission of excuse documentation will be considered. See [Student Assistance Center](#).

4. In case (c) an official letter from the designated university official must be submitted via the online form at least one week prior to the due date of the missed assessment.
5. If you will not be able to take an exam due to illness or any other reason, you must send email to your professor at the earliest possible opportunity. Excused exams will be replaced by a weighted average of the other exam scores at the end of semester.
6. Notwithstanding the above, at the professor's discretion you may be required to make up any excused work or attend substitute instruction or assessment.

**Accommodations:**

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or aids, students should contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, e-mail [disability@illinois.edu](mailto:disability@illinois.edu), or go to the DRES website: <https://www.disability.illinois.edu>. If you are concerned you have a disability related condition that is impacting your academic progress, academic screening appointments are available on campus that can help diagnose a disability.

For rare circumstances, such as extended illness and family emergencies that make it difficult for you to keep up with coursework, you should contact Professor Hoffmann via an email ([axelh@illinois.edu](mailto:axelh@illinois.edu)) private message as soon as possible to discuss options. In these cases, I encourage you to reach out to the Dean of Students office, which can help you contact and manage accommodations with all of your courses.

**Academic Integrity:**

Honesty and integrity are fundamental to our community. Guidelines for academic integrity are detailed in [Article 1, Part 4 of the Illinois Student Code](#). Any confirmed violations of that code will be taken seriously and may result in failure for the course.

**Changes to syllabus:**

May occur as deemed necessary by the instructor; they will be announced.

**Calendar and Topics:**

Changes to the schedule will be announced; see the MSE 498 website on [Canvas](#) for exact schedule, assignments, and to remain up to date.

**Course outline:** (topics may be adjusted as needed)

<i>Week 1</i> 8/24 and 26	Introduction to magnetism, magnetic order, dipolar fields, anisotropy	Homework #1 assigned
<i>Week 2</i> 8/31 and 9/2	Basic energies, reversal and thermal stability, single domain particles, domain formations	Homework # 2 assigned Homework # 1 due (9/2)
<i>Week 3</i> 9/7 and 9	Dynamics and micromagnetic modeling	Homework # 3 assigned Homework # 2 due (9/9) $\mu$ -mag sim. projects assigned
<i>Week 4</i> 9/14 and 16	Spin waves and magnetic excitations	Homework # 4 assigned Homework # 3 due (9/16) Literature review presentation dates assigned
<i>Week 5</i> 9/21 and 23	Biomagnetism and magnetic nano-particles, biomedical application	Homework # 5 assigned Homework # 4 due (9/23) Start of literature review presentations
<i>Week 6</i> 9/28 and 30	Magnetic imaging and microscopy	Homework # 6 assigned Homework # 5 due (9/30)
<i>Week 7</i> 10/5 and 7	Permanent magnets and soft magnets	Homework # 7 assigned Homework # 6 due (10/7) Progress report $\mu$ -mag sim.
<i>Week 8</i> 10/12 and 14	Midterm review and Midterm Exam	
<i>Week 9</i> 10/19 and 21	Interfacial and surface effects, magnetic heterostructures	Homework # 8 assigned Homework # 7 due (10/21) Progress report $\mu$ -mag sim.
<i>Week 10</i> 10/26 and 28	Interlayer exchange coupling, giant and tunneling magnetoresistance, spintronics	Homework # 9 assigned Homework # 8 due (10/28)
<i>Week 11</i> 11/2 and 4	Student presentations on micromagnetic simulation projects	
<i>Week 12</i> 11/9 and 11	Spintronics and magnetic recording	Homework # 10 assigned Homework # 9 due (11/11)
<i>Week 13</i> 11/16 and 19	Magnetic solid-state memory	Homework # 10 due (11/19)
<i>Week 14</i> 11/23 and 25	No classes	Happy Thanksgiving!
<i>Week 15</i> 11/30 and 12/2	Topological phenomena and other current hot topics	
<i>Week 16</i> 12/7 and 9	Final Review and Final Exam	