

# MNE6119: ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Electron Microscopy

### Subject Code

MNE - Mechanical Engineering

### Course Number

6119

### Academic Unit

Mechanical Engineering (MNE)

### College/School

College of Engineering (EG)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

MNE8106 Electron Microscopy

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course focuses on theories and applications of modern electron microscopy including Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) and X-Ray Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy. Lectures cover basic electron

optics, electron-beam and specimen interactions, electron diffraction, advanced electron imaging techniques and image interpretation, vacuum system and instrumentations, qualitative and quantitative X-ray microanalysis. The theoretical understanding gained by students will help them understand and interpret experimental data as well as perform electron microscopy experiments. Hands-on experience is also emphasized, which includes sample preparation techniques and use of electron microscope(s).

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1 Describe the theory and applications of electron microscopy and spectroscopy techniques (SEM/TEM/EDS).			x	
2 Explain the SEM/TEM/EDS principles and the basic instrumentation and hardware.			x	
3 Apply SEM/TEM/EDS for imaging, diffraction and spectroscopy experiments and data analysis.			x	

#### A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

#### A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

#### A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1 Lecture	Lectures on the topics of the keyword syllabus; total 39 hours.	1, 2, 3	3 hours per week

### Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1 Test	1, 2	20	In-class test (mid-term)	No
2 Homework and virtual lab	3	20	Homework and lab report	Yes

#### Continuous Assessment (%)

40

#### Examination (%)

60

#### Examination Duration (Hours)

2

**Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)**

30

**Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)**

30

**Additional Information for ATs**

For a student to pass the course, at least 30% of the maximum mark for both coursework and examination should be obtained.

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)**

**Assessment Task**

Test (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Ability to explain the basic theories and applications of electron microscopy and spectroscopy techniques, including basic electron optics, electron-beam and specimen interactions, electron imaging techniques and image interpretation; and the basic knowledges and applications of EDS for X-ray microanalysis.

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) High

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Significant

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

**Marginal**

(D) Basic

**Failure**

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

**Assessment Task**

Homework and virtual lab (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Ability to demonstrate the theoretical understanding gained from lectures to understand and interpret experimental data as well as perform the SEM/TEM experiments; and the evidence of background work done by the students before and after experiments, presentation of results discussion on the observations and measurements, references, and organization and quality of presentation.

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) High

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Significant

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

**Marginal**

(D) Basic

**Failure**

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

Examination (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Ability to explain the electron microscopy (SEM/TEM) principles, including basic electron optics, electron-beam and specimen interactions, electron diffraction, advanced electron imaging techniques and image interpretation; the basic theories of X-Ray Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy (EDS) and its applications for qualitative and quantitative X-ray microanalysis; the fundamentals of the modern electron microscope hardware, including vacuum system, and other basic instrumentations.

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) High

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Significant

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

**Marginal**

(D) Basic

**Failure**

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

Test (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Ability to explain the basic theories and applications of electron microscopy and spectroscopy techniques, including basic electron optics, electron-beam and specimen interactions, electron imaging techniques and image interpretation; and the basic knowledges and applications of EDS for X-ray microanalysis.

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) High

**Good**

(B+, B) Significant

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Moderate

**Failure**

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### **Assessment Task**

Homework and virtual lab (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

#### **Criterion**

Ability to demonstrate the theoretical understanding gained from lectures to understand and interpret experimental data as well as perform the SEM/TEM experiments; and the evidence of background work done by the students before and after experiments, presentation of results discussion on the observations and measurements, references, and organization and quality of presentation.

#### **Excellent**

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### **Assessment Task**

Examination (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

#### **Criterion**

Ability to explain the electron microscopy (SEM/TEM) principles, including basic electron optics, electron-beam and specimen interactions, electron diffraction, advanced electron imaging techniques and image interpretation; the basic theories of X-Ray Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy (EDS) and its applications for qualitative and quantitative X-ray microanalysis; the fundamentals of the modern electron microscope hardware, including vacuum system, and other basic instrumentations.

#### **Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) High

#### **Good**

(B+, B) Significant

#### **Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Moderate

#### **Failure**

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

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## **Part III Other Information**

### **Keyword Syllabus**

- This course covers theory and applications of electron microscopy techniques with an emphasis on transmission and scanning electron microscopy (TEM, SEM). Topics include modern electron microscope and instrumentation, electron optics, electron diffraction, imaging techniques, tomography (electron backscatter diffraction, EBSD), and X-ray microanalysis (energy dispersive spectroscopy, EDS), as well as recently developed in situ electron microscopy techniques.

- Hands-on laboratory using the instruments in the CSE advanced microscopy platform (FEI Quanta 450 FE-SEM) and department's SEM (JEOL JSM-5600, FEI Quanta 250) and TEM (JEOL 2100F). The students will gain the knowledge and ability necessary to prepare the samples, operate the instruments and analyze data independently.

### Reading List

#### Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	J. Goldstein et al., "Scanning Electron Microscopy and X-Ray Microanalysis" Springer (3rd edition).
2	D.B. Willams and C.B. Carter, "Transmission Electron Microscopy: A Textbook for Materials Science" Springer (2nd edition).

#### Additional Readings

Title	
1	P.J. Goodhew, J. Humphreys and R. Beanland, "Electron Microscopy and Analysis" Taylor & Francis Group 3rd edition.