

**ISE/OR501-001-601– INTRODUCTION TO OPERATIONS RESEARCH
SPRING2026**

Course credits: 3 credit hours

Course objectives/description

The course aims to introduce the various types of operations research models and techniques. We will address how to formulate a wide range of decision problems using an appropriate mathematical programming model and solve them using an appropriate algorithm or solver. The emphasis will be given to Linear Programming, Network Models, and Integer Programming. Some example applications of mathematical programming to be covered in this class include production planning, network analysis, project scheduling, logistics network design, fixed charge problems, set covering problem, etc.

Course Topics

- Introduction to Model Building and the Use of Computer Tools (LINDO, Excel Solver, GAMS)
- Operations Research Techniques
 - Linear Programming
 - Model building
 - Simplex algorithm
 - Application areas: Production Planning, Network analysis (Shortest Path, Max Flow, Project Scheduling, Minimum Cost Network Flow, etc.)
 - Integer Programming
 - Model building
 - Branch and bound algorithm
 - Application areas: Capital allocation, Logistics Network Optimization, Fixed charge production-location problems, set covering problems, either-or constraints.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Learn the characteristics of the various types of mathematical programming models,
2. Build concise and accurate mathematical models for various real-life situations,
3. Apply the basic algorithms for solving linear and integer programming problems and some network problems,
4. Use appropriate computer tools for solving the mathematical programming formulations,
5. Recognize, formulate and solve decision-making problems in a wide range of applications using operations research tools.

Class Time: Tuesday-Thursday 11:45am-1:00pm

Teaching mode: face to face, in the classroom (section 001), online asynchronous (section 601)

Classroom: 4134 Fitts-Woolard Hall

Instructor: Semra Sebnem AHISKA KING

Office Location: 4179, Fitts-Woolard Hall

Office hours: Mon-Wed, 1:30-3:00pm, or Friday by appointment (available in-person in my office and/or online with Zoom)

Email: ssahiska@ncsu.edu

Teaching Assistants: Mufan Wang

Office Location: FWH 4331/4333, Desk 24

TA Office hours: Tue-Thu, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Email: mwang47@ncsu.edu

Prerequisites

An undergraduate course in calculus math, linear algebra

Textbook (optional for the student, no purchase is required)

Operations Research: Applications and Algorithms, Wayne L. Winston, 4th edition, 2004, Thomson Brooks/Cole, ISBN-13: 978-0534380588, ISBN-10: 0534380581

Course requirements/Grading

Assignments	Percentage of Final Grade
Homework Assignments (around 10) ^a	20%
Project	10%
Exam 1 (around 6 th week, lectures 1-10)	20 ^b %
Exam 2 (around 10 th week, lectures 11-16)	25%
Exam 3, Final Exam (Thu, Apr 30, 12:00-2:30pm, lectures 17-26)	25%

^aStudents are required to submit at least **eight** HW assignments. The students' average HW grade will be computed considering their best eight HW grades.

^bThe exam with lowest grade among the three exams will be assigned 20%, and the other two will be assigned 25% each.

Software needed*

Excel Solver, LINDO and GAMS (free demo versions)

*No prior knowledge of the software is required; the use of software will be taught in class.

Lecture mode and Class attendance policy: The instruction mode is “*face to face (F2F) in the classroom*”. In case it becomes impossible to teach F2F for any reason, the lectures will be delivered online. The on-campus (section 002) students are required to attend at least 80% of the lectures in the classroom unless they have a medical excuse. **Up to 6 missed lectures** can be tolerated given this attendance policy. **Your overall grade will be reduced by 3 points (equivalent to one letter grade) for any additional lecture missed over 6.** Students must sign the attendance sheet by the end of each lecture to prove their presence. The Engineering Online

(EOL) students (section 601) are expected to watch the lecture recordings on a timely basis, ideally as soon as they are posted.

Course structure

The lectures will be delivered by the instructor. Many in-class examples will be provided to the students for learning the introduced concepts/techniques. The active participation of the students in solving these in-class examples is strongly recommended. The students will then have the opportunity to enhance their knowledge through challenging HW assignments and project.

Course policy

The use of computers and communication devices for personal purposes (texting, emailing, surfing internet, etc.) and eating/drinking are not allowed during the lectures in the classroom.

The **use of artificial intelligence** (sources such as ChatGPT) in the graded assignments **is strictly prohibited** and will be considered as an academic integrity violation.

Posting any course materials (lecture notes, HW solutions, exams, etc.) **on internet websites** (such as course hero) is **strictly prohibited** and subject to copyright infringement and academic integrity violation.

Course Moodle page

The Moodle page will be used for posting all the course materials and for HW/project submissions.

Moodle page for the course is accessible at:

<https://wolfware.ncsu.edu/courses/my-wolfware/>

OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES ON HW SUBMISSIONS AND EXAMS:

- HW/project submissions will be done online using Moodle by midnight of their due date.
- All the homework/project assignments must be submitted by their due date. Late submissions will receive 0 grade. In case you need more time to complete the work, you must talk with the instructor at least 1 day before the due date, in which case you may be granted an extended deadline if you have an acceptable excuse such as medical.
- All three exams will be **IN-CLASS exams** to be taken in the classroom for the on-campus students (section 001). For the Engineering Online (EOL) students (section 601), they will be **in-person proctored exams** at an approved testing center.
- On-campus students are required to attend the exams on their scheduled date and time. The EOL students will be provided with an exam window (that consists of a few days) around the exam date scheduled for the on-campus students. No make-up for the exams will be provided unless the student has a medical emergency on the test day. An official note from the doctor will be demanded in this case as proof of the medical excuse.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Students are required to comply with the university policy on academic integrity found in the Code of Student Conduct found at <http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-01>. The Code of Student Conduct (NCSU POL11.35.01) serves as the basis for student conduct at NC State. It contains information related to the university's jurisdiction over student behavior, academic and non-academic violations, sanctions available when a violation occurs, and information regarding interim suspension. **Academic violations include cheating, plagiarism, or aiding another to cheat or plagiarize.** Non-academic violations include rules concerning alcohol, drugs, infliction or threat of bodily harm, vandalism, disorderly conduct, harassment, interpersonal violence, and more). All students are strongly encouraged to read and understand the Code of Student Conduct (<https://studentconduct.dasa.ncsu.edu/code/>).

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of education. Plagiarism and cheating are attacks on the very foundation of academic life and cannot be tolerated within universities. All students are strongly encouraged to review the university policies on academic integrity at <https://studentconduct.dasa.ncsu.edu/academic-integrity-overview/>.

A student who violates academic integrity in any graded assignment (HW, project, exams) will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct for academic misconduct. Violations of academic integrity will be handled in accordance with the Student Discipline Procedures (NCSU REG 11.35.02) (<https://studentconduct.dasa.ncsu.edu/procedures/>). A student who violates the academic integrity will fail the course and lose his/her good academic standing status, which may mean losing several opportunities including TA/RA positions, scholarships, CPT (working off-campus), etc. The student may also be suspended or even terminated from the program.

Examples for academic integrity violation include but are not limited to the following:

- Copying somebody else's work partly or entirely in HW and exams
 - Reading and copying the solutions of the HW problems that were posted in previous years (the instructor's solution files or any former student's solution file)
 - Copying a classmate's work who is not in your HW group.
 - The **use of artificial intelligence** sources (such as ChatGPT) in HW assignments.
 - Any kind of communication (verbal/written) with a classmate during the exam.
 - Reading a classmate's work during the exam.
 - Letting a classmate see your solutions in HW and exam problems.
- Asking a classmate to sign the attendance sheet for the day you will be absent or signing the attendance sheet for a classmate who is absent.
- Posting class materials (lecture notes, hw solutions) on internet websites

GRADING SCALE

The following is the standard NCSU grading scale. Based on the overall class performance, the minimum grade required for a particular letter grade may be reduced in favor of the students.

Grade range	Letter grade
97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-68	D
60-62	D-
<60	F