

**ME 285A: Foundations of the Theory of Continuous Media**

**Syllabus**

**1. Introduction.** The nonlinear field theories. Mathematical preliminaries. Tensors. Fréchet derivative and differential.

**2. Kinematics of Deformable Continua.** Bodies. Deformations. Polar decomposition theorem. Derivatives of stretch and rotation tensors. Velocity and vorticity fields. Pull-back and push-forward operations. Lie derivative. Material transport of fields. Internal constraints. Relative deformation gradient. Rivlin-Ericksen tensors.

**3. Balance Laws.** Conservation of mass. Balance of linear and angular momenta for continua. Stress tensors. Balance of energy. A remark on the second law of thermodynamics.

**4. General Constitutive Relations (Purely Mechanical Theory).** Relationship between stress and history of deformation. Invariance requirements. Simple materials. Symmetry considerations. Cauchy-elastic and Green-elastic (or hyperelastic) materials. Internally constrained elastic materials. Viscous fluids. Materials with memory. Viscoelastic fluids and solids. Reiner-Rivlin fluids. Rivlin-Ericksen fluids. Materials with fading memory. Linear viscoelasticity. Pseudo-Rigid materials.

**5. Thermoelastic Materials.** Ideal gas. Entropy and Helmholtz free energy functions. Clausius-Duhem inequality. Thermoelasticity. Approach of Coleman and Noll. Approach of Rivlin: construction of entropy function. Internally constrained thermoelastic materials. Linear thermoelasticity.

**6. Thermoelastic Materials with Viscosity.** Construction of the entropy function for thermoelastic materials with viscosity, and subject to internal constraints.

**7. Thermodynamics of Materials with Memory.** Materials with fading memory. Instantaneous elasticity. Open questions.

**8. Selected Topics.** Mixture theory, nonlocal continua.

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**Grading scheme:** Homework (~40%), Midterm (~20%), Final Project (~40%).