



STDI—Structural Test Design and Interpretation

Short Course

Testimonials

Canadian Space Agency (commenting on an early version of this course called “Effective Structural Verification”)

“Very good handouts, very good link between course and experience.”

“Great course. I wish I had more people from my team with me.”

“Enjoyed the course and will recommend it.”

“Overall, a very good, well-presented course. Thank you!”

“The examples brought by the teacher and the discussion brought by the students were an added value to this course.”

“That was great! Thank you, Tom!”

“Course content and presenter’s anecdotes were really good. Knowledge of spacecraft failures was particularly effective.”

“Excellent, well polished course and highly knowledgeable instructor.”

“The quality of course is excellent.”

Goodrich ISR Systems

“The review of the entire topic is great. Typically don’t get a chance to look at big picture.”

“Provided a good overview of how all the various testing methods may be considered and combined to best address the objectives. Helped to highlight the key nature and pros/cons of various options.”

Most interesting or useful:

- “Test design & applicable tests for a given program.”
- “Static loads testing & testing on shaker.”
- “Pitfalls and problems from improper testing, lack of or poor planning.”

Jet Propulsion Laboratory

STDI Testimonials

“Regardless of if you will be responsible for a structural test in the future, this class will give you invaluable insight into the entire process.”

“Overall, great class and instructor. Good use of theory and practical application.”

“I think this course should be a “must take” for stress engineers in charge of designing and conducting standard tests.”

“Excellent course for mechanical design engineers that can get a general view of structural testing and applicability of each type of test to different types of hardware.”

“Tom combines varied examples and case studies from his many years of experience in a compact course that gives a global overview of test design practice.”

“This course helped me understand the best testing approach to take depending on the test objective that wasn’t so clear to me before since I didn’t see the “big” picture before.”

“One of the best teachers I’ve experienced in a long time.”

“Great course.” “Great examples, in-class activities, case studies.”

“Great knowledge and ability to relate to non-specialists. Good presentation energy.”

“Tom was very knowledgeable and has a lot of applicable experience.”

“It was a great class and I certainly recommend this for our group (structural analysis and loads).”

“Tom was knowledgeable and patiently answered all questions.”

“I enjoyed the class and felt it was beneficial overall.”

“Lots of great real-world examples.”

“I would definitely recommend the class to anyone who will be involved with structural testing, whether or not they will be responsible for designing the test.”

“Overall, very knowledgeable instructor and I learned a lot. Good mix of theory and practical application.”

NASA Kennedy Space Center

“This course offered a good understanding of the different types of structural testing, reasons to implement each and the proper methods to ensure a successful test.”

“This course should be mandatory for all NASA, or any other industry partners, engineering disciplines.”

“Instructor welcomed questions and classroom discussion and interaction. Good survey of topic.”

“A terrific insight course for success in structural testing and avoiding pitfalls.”

“The course was well structured and very well presented.”

“Great overview of loads analysis and test.”

STDI Testimonials

“Great instructor experience, lots of real world examples and insights.”

NASA Glenn Research Center

“As a relatively new engineer, this course helped answer many questions that I had in regards to the overall purpose and goal of the many tests involved with my projects.”

“I thought the course dove deep enough into the details without overwhelming the audience. I’ll take away many important key ideas to use when designing crafts.”

“Tremendous knowledge in a short time.”

“Excellent course!! Very timely because GRC is supporting upcoming Orion service module structural testing.”

“The course offers a very good overview for the considerations that need to be taken into account prior to, during, and after any structural testing.”

“I thought the case history examples and work shops were exemplary”

“This course offers excellent exposure for me to spacecraft structures.”

“The real-world anecdotes, experiential examples, and student-solved problems (were what I found most interesting or useful).”

“The course notes/presentation charts were quite good. Should be a useful reference.”

“Thought-provoking questions and exercises to reinforce taught material.”

“I liked the case histories and examples. It is always good to see how theory is applied.”

NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (commenting on an early version of this course called “Effective Structural Verification”)

“Good course. It’s good to know what the people who are creating the tests I run should know.”

“Very informative.”

“This is an excellent course. I found it very helpful and applicable to my job. I hope to take more courses from you.”

“I think the majority of it was interesting/useful. Very good balance.”

“Instructor knows subject and can convey the subject well.”

Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems

“Excellent!”

STDI Testimonials

“The entire course was useful to me. Almost all of the material was new to me. It gave me a good basic understanding of the types of test that we do and why we do them.”

“Good job, Tom. These courses are a big help and give us a lot of great fundamental information.”

“This course gives you a good fundamental foundation to good structural design verification test. This course helped demystify my questions about dynamic testing.”

“This is a good introduction course to the subject of structural test design and interpretation, with a good balance between theory, foundation analysis, and real-world examples.”

“Tom Sarafin’s courses never disappoint. This class offers a well-balanced blend of fundamentals, examples, and lessons learned that any aerospace engineer involved in structural test design and interpretation would benefit from. Looking forward to more to come from Instar.”

“This course has practical, structural test topics, useful for designer, responsible engineer and technical manager.”

“This course provided good collection of information to help engineer design and interpret test in future program.”

“This is a great course.”

“Great professor with courses where you can take the information learned and material presented and directly apply it to your everyday work!”

Other organizations

“A must for any engineer that has the slightest test involvement!”

“This course is indispensable for anyone planning a structural test. It will pay for itself already in the test planning phase.”

“Highly relevant to my job, lots of useful information that I can immediately apply at work. Thank you!”

“The course successfully tied together the many aspects of structural testing in a form that was easy to understand and did not induce confusion with complicated formulas. The course greatly increased my understanding of structural testing.”