

Course Software Information

Photovoltaic System Design and Modelling

You will need to have a laptop loaded with the course software, if you wish to fully participate in the software and modelling portion of the class. You can participate in the rest of the course without a laptop. Further, if the laptop/software requirement is unattainable for you, you can simply take notes during this session, and learn the pros and cons of each type of software and your preferences between them.

Please have software loaded before the course begins on Friday if possible.

The software and modelling portion should begin around 4:30 (until 5:30) on Saturday evening of the class, and the bulk of the modelling portion will take place beginning Sunday morning at 8:30 am.

You will need RETScreen and SAM loaded onto your computer.

RETScreen can be downloaded here:

<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/software-tools/7465>

SAM can be downloaded here: <https://sam.nrel.gov/download>

You will also need access to Helioscope, which will be taught. Helioscope is all online access. The 30 day trial version is okay for the course. Helioscope can be found here: <https://helioscope.folsomlabs.com/>

PV Watts will also be taught in the course. It is a free online tool that can be found here: <http://pvwatts.nrel.gov/>

REMINDER: RETScreen will only run on a windows operating system, such as Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8, or 10.

Please note that the software taught in class may change from the time of registration to the actual class date, subject to the updating of the course by the instructor.

If you have a Mac operating system, you will require additional software to make RETScreen work on your laptop. Be forewarned that you may find this to be complicated and/or time consuming to achieve. For example, SESA staff member Leon

Milner used BootCamp to partition his computer and install Windows 10. This cost about \$175 for the windows operating system software and about 4 hours of his time. For your reference, he could be considered moderately skilled with computers.

We should have enough electrical plugins for all participants, as well as internet access, at the course.

Do not contact NAIT with questions about the course or software. Contact Leon Milner, leon@solaralberta.ca, or call Leon at 1 780 443 7788.