Course Overview and Policies

What you should know on the first day of class

Discussion

Discussion sections start in the first week of class. You must attend the discussion you are registered in. Discussion section will involve team-based problem solving, so there will be penalties for arriving late or submitting the worksheet late. Thus, we highly recommend you consider travel time when registering for a discussion section. You can try to change your discussion section before Monday September 11 by following the Changing Your Discussion Section instructions.

Homework

Homework assignments and their deadlines will be posted on the Syllabus page of this wiki. Homework assignments will be due on Fridays at 2:30 pm. The first three weekly homeworks are online on prairielearn.engr.illinois.edu. The rest of the weekly homeworks are written and will be due in the course mailboxes located opposite 3026 ECEB. Homework 1 is due on Friday September 8 at 2:30 pm.

Laboratory assignments

Labs and their deadlines will be posted on the Syllabus. Labs will be due roughly every other week. A failing grade (F) for the course will be given to any student who does not score at least 50% in the labs. Lab 1 is due on Wednesday September 13 at 2:30 pm.

Midterms and final exam

Exam dates are posted on the Syllabus. Midterm 1A and Midterm 1B are computerized PrairieLearn exams that you schedule yourself and take at the Computer-based Testing Facility (CBTF). Midterm 2, Midterm 3 and the Final are written exams that you take at times posted on this wiki.

James Scholar honors lab

James Scholar students or those working to become a James Scholar are invited to participate in the James Scholar Honors Lab.

Getting help

The ECE 120 Staff are committed to helping you learn, but you must ask for help! If you have technical questions, please ask at Office Hours or post a question in the comments sections of the Homework or Lab pages of this wiki. You can also ask your instructor or TA quick questions after lecture or discussion. In general, the course staff will not answer technical questions by email due to the size of the class. If you have questions about how to improve your learning skills, please feel free to ask any member of the course staff with whom you feel comfortable. These conversations are best had in person rather than by email. Finally, if you have questions about course logistics or can't get your question answered any other way, please email the course coordinator David Varodayan at dpv@illinois.edu.

Grading Policy

- Homeworks - 15% (lowest two homework grades will be dropped)
- Labs - 15% (lowest single lab grade will be dropped)
- Discussions - 5% (lowest two discussion grades will be dropped)
- Midterm 1A - 5%
- Midterm 1B - 5% (Your Midterm 1B score will replace your Midterm 1A score if you do better on Midterm 1B.)
- Midterm 2 - 15%
- Midterm 3 - 15%
- Final Exam - 25%

Every homework assignment will be weighted equally, even though the raw totals may be different. Likewise, every lab will be weighted equally. The lowest two grades will be dropped among homeworks and discussions. The lowest single grade will be dropped among labs. For this reason, there will be no deadline extensions for any reason. Grades will be posted on Compass as soon as they are available.

Grade cutoffs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>&gt; 97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-96.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the event that course performance is worse than expected, these cutoffs might be lowered, but they will never be raised. Furthermore, they are strict. For example, a grade of 89.99 is a B+ and not an A-. A failing grade (F) for the course will be given to any student who does not score at least 50% in the labs.

Course Mailboxes for Submissions

Next to the undergraduate lounge (3070 ECEB) you will find the course mailboxes. They will be used during the semester to submit written homeworks and regrade requests. To avoid having points deducted, make sure you submit your work into the proper mailbox—the mailbox corresponding to your discussion section. Please note that no submission will be graded/re-graded if it is not stapled. No exceptions.

Submitting Regrade Requests

Regrade requests must be submitted in writing on a separate sheet of paper stapled to the work being regraded. They are due in the course mailbox, before the posted deadline. (This date is not extended if you do not claim your work on time.) For any reason other than mistakes in addition on our part, you must explain why your answer merits more points. Any portion of an assignment for which you request a regrade may be regraded (in addition to those that you request), which could result in an overall reduction in your assignment grade. You may not write on the original assignment for any reason. We reserve the right to refuse regrade requests for modified assignments.

Submitting Late Work

We will not accept late homework or lab assignments. If the work is not returned by the due time, you will receive 0 points for it. No exceptions.

Cheating and Academic Integrity

We take cheating very seriously.

The Student Code defines cheating as "Using or attempting to use in any academic exercise materials, information, study aids, or electronic data that the student knows or should know is unauthorized" (§1-402(a)) and notes that "Substantial portions of the same academic work may not be submitted for credit more than once or by more than one student without authorization." (§1-402(a)(4))

The student code also disallows facilitation of cheating, prohibiting "Helping or attempting to help another to commit an infraction of academic integrity, where one knows or should know that through one's acts or omissions such an infraction may be facilitated." (§1-402(c))

How might cheating arise in a class like ECE 120? If two people work together on a homework or lab assignment and hand in the same, or a substantially similar solution, that would be "Substantial portions of the same academic work." If you need help and, during the course of helping you debug, a friend gives you a few lines of code, this is "using... information... known to be unauthorized." Letting someone else do your homework or write code for you is absolutely a violation.

Cheating is an offense to the entire academic system: you, your classmates, and the course staff. It creates extra work for the course staff, it creates grading imbalances for your classmates, and it prevents you from learning the material that the rest of your academic career is built on. We will take cheating very seriously. If we catch you cheating, helping someone cheat, or not reporting cheating that you know of, the incident will be reported to the College.

Guidelines for Authorized Assistance

Homework and software lab assignments will be graded individually. Students can receive assistance, but they should not view another student's homework solutions or code and may not write homework solutions and code for others. Students should not post their code or problem solutions electronically. We recommend that students discuss flow charts and algorithms, but write their own code by themselves. Similarly, students are welcome to discuss homework assignments with peers, however they must write up their final solutions on their own.

Hardware labs and discussion activities are team activities. Students are required to assist teammates.

Exams are individual assignments. Students are not authorized to receive assistance from each other.

If you are confused about what exactly is or is not permitted, please ask the course instructors for clarification. Confusion or ignorance of the rules is not an excuse.

Attendance and Medical Excuses
Students are required to attend all lectures and discussions. Discussions are meant to increase students' understanding of the material presented in the lectures.

It is your responsibility to personally contact your instructors to discuss any missed exams, difficulties in attending classes regularly due to medical excuses. Within seven days of your discharge (hospital or clinic), you must bring and show to your professor a letter from an Dean of Students confirming your medical excuse.

Since we will implement the policy of dropping the lowest two grades in homeworks and discussions and the lowest single grade in labs, you do not need to show to your instructor any medical excuse. Everybody gets these lowest grades dropped, no questions asked! Please take into account that no further concessions will be given during the semester for any reason: this policy is firm.

**Accommodations**

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course coordinator David Varodayan (dpv@illinois.edu) and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603, e-mail disability@illinois.edu or go to the DRES website.

For instructions on how to handle accommodations with the Computer-based Testing Facility, please see https://cbtf. engr. illinois. edu/ for-students/ dres-students. html.

**Sexual Misconduct Policy and Reporting**

The University of Illinois is committed to combating sexual misconduct. Faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct to the University’s Title IX and Disability Office. In turn, an individual with the Title IX and Disability Office will provide information about rights and options, including accommodations, support services, the campus disciplinary process, and law enforcement options.

A list of the designated University employees who, as counselors, confidential advisors, and medical professionals, do not have this reporting responsibility and can maintain confidentiality, can be found here: wecare. illinois. edu/resources/students/#confidential.

Other information about resources and reporting is available here: wecare. illinois. edu.

**Get Familiar with the Wiki**

Make sure you read carefully and understand the information posted on the wiki. Confusion or ignorance of the rules is not an excuse not to comply with them. If you have a question, please contact the instructors.

When writing comments on the wiki, remember to be civil. As a rule of thumb, if you would not dare to say something in front of everybody in the lecture room, it is probably not wise to post it on the wiki either. We expect you to be polite both in the classroom and online.

Finally, please remember that students should not post code or problem solutions on the course website.