ECE 120: INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTING

Welcome to the ECE 120 website for Fall 2017.

Announcements

https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Home

November 12: Week 12 overview

Dear ECE 120 students:

1. Midterm 3 will take place on Tuesday November 28 at 8:30-10:00 pm (right after the Thanksgiving break). The deadline to inform us of a conflict for Midterm 3 is tomorrow Monday November 13. All information about Midterm 3 (including past exams) can be found on the course wiki: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Midterm+3
   On that page you will find a link to a conflict signup form: https://illinois.edu/fb/sec/1817374
2. There will be a UA Review Session on Sunday, November 26 at 2:00-4:00pm in 1013 ECEB. Another review session run by HKN may be announced later.
3. Lab 6 has been posted on the syllabus page. It is due this Wednesday November 15 at 2:30 pm in your svn repository: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Lab+6
4. Homework 11 is a written homework. It is due this Friday November 17 at 2:30 pm in the ECE 120 mailboxes located opposite 3026 ECEB: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Homework+11
5. Thanks to all who provided feedback about the course! Have a happy Thanksgiving break!

November 10: Last call for your feedback!

Dear ECE 120 students:

If you haven't already, please complete the online feedback survey by today: https://illinois.edu/sb/sec/8405239. Thank you to all who have given your feedback and have a great weekend!

November 8: Reminders about feedback survey and conflict exam request

Dear ECE 120 students:

We haven't received many responses to either the anonymous feedback survey or the midterm 3 conflict form (maybe because there aren't many conflicts). In any case, I am repeating information about both of them below:

1. The ECE 120 course staff invites you to give us anonymous feedback on ECE 120 and suggestions on how to improve it. Please complete the online survey by Friday November 10 at this link: https://illinois.edu/sb/sec/8405239
2. Midterm 3 will take place on Tuesday November 28 at 8:30-10:00 pm (right after the Thanksgiving break). The deadline to inform us of a conflict for Midterm 3 is Monday November 13. All information about Midterm 3 can be found on the course wiki: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Midterm+3
   On that page you will find a link to a conflict signup form: https://illinois.edu/fb/sec/1817374

November 5: Week 11 overview
Dear ECE 120 students:

1. Homework 10 is a written homework. It is due this Friday November 10 at 2:30 pm in the ECE 120 mailboxes located opposite 3026 ECEB: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Homework+10

2. Lab 6 has been posted on the syllabus page. It is due next Wednesday November 15 at 2:30 pm in your svn repository: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Lab+6

3. Midterm 3 will take place on Tuesday November 28 at 8:30-10:00 pm (right after the Thanksgiving break). **The deadline to inform us of a conflict for Midterm 3 is Monday November 13.** All information about Midterm 3 can be found on the course wiki: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Midterm+3 On that page you will find a link to a conflict signup form: https://illinois.edu/lb/sec/1817374

4. The ECE 120 course staff invites you to give us anonymous feedback on ECE 120 and suggestions on how to improve it. Please complete the online survey by Friday November 10 at this link: https://illinois.edu/sb/sec/8405239

5. If you have not yet returned your hardware lab toolbox, you may do so this week during any TA office hours in 4022 ECEB. If you do not return your toolbox, the ECE Electronics Services Shops will send you a bill for replacement of the parts.

**October 29: Week 10 overview**

Dear ECE 120 students:

1. Lab 5 will be demoed between Tuesday October 31 and Friday November 3: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Lab+5  
   **The deadline to sign up for your Lab 5 demo time is this Monday October 30.** Sign up using your lab toolbox number only at the following doodle poll: https://doodle.com/poll/iq5h2nnha3f93wwy. We are deleting invalid and duplicate entries. **The poll data will be downloaded on Tuesday October 31 and no further signups will be accepted.** We highly recommend that you use a Doodle account to sign up to prevent others from deleting your signup by mistake.

2. Homework 9 is a written homework. It is due this Friday November 3 at 2:30 pm in the ECE 120 mailboxes located opposite 3026 ECEB: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Homework+9

3. **Has your ECE 120 TA been outstanding this semester?** If so, please nominate your TA for the Harold L. Olesen Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by Graduate Students by visiting the following link: https://ece.illinois.edu/academics/grad/awards/olesen

4. Compass (https://compass2g.illinois.edu/) has been updated with grades up to Midterm 2, Homework 7, Discussion 8 and Lab 4. You will receive your midterm exam back during discussion section.

**October 22: Week 9 overview**

Dear ECE 120 students:

1. Your midterm 2 time and location have been posted in Compass in the grades section (https://compass2g.illinois.edu/). **Please make sure you arrive at the correct location and time**, since we will take attendance and may move you to the correct room during the exam.

2. All information about Midterm 2 (including information about an aid sheet) can be found on the course wiki: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Midterm+2

3. Homework 8 is a written homework. It is due this Friday October 27 at 2:30 pm in the ECE 120 mailboxes located opposite 3026 ECEB: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Homework+8

4. Lab 5 will be demoed between Tuesday October 31 and Friday November 3: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Lab+5
   **The deadline to sign up for your Lab 5 demo time is Monday October 30.** Sign up using your lab toolbox number only at the following doodle poll: http://doodle.com/poll/iq5h2nnha3f93wwy. We are deleting invalid and duplicate entries. **The poll data will be downloaded on Tuesday October 31 and no further signups will be accepted.** We highly recommend that you use a Doodle account to sign up to prevent others from deleting your signup by mistake.
**October 17: Additional week 8 announcements**

Dear ECE 120 students:

1. Your midterm 2 time and location have been posted in Compass in the grades section (https://compass2g.illinois.edu). **Please make sure you arrive at the correct location and time**, since we will take attendance and will move you to the correct room during the exam.
2. There will be two review sessions for Midterm 2 this weekend.
   1. **HKN Review Session**: Saturday, October 21 at 2:00-4:00pm in 1015 ECEB. This review session is run by students and is not endorsed by the course instructors.
   2. **UA Review Session**: Sunday, October 22 at 2:00-4:00pm in 1013 ECEB
3. There will be no lectures on Monday, October 23.

**October 15: Week 8 overview**

Dear ECE 120 students:

1. Midterm 2 will take place on Tuesday October 24 at 8:30-10:00 pm. **The deadline to inform us of a conflict for Midterm 2 is this Monday October 16.** All information about Midterm 2 can be found on the course wiki: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Midterm+2
   On that page you will find a link to a conflict signup form: https://illinois.edu/fb/sec/6664506
   Please note that most sections of Math 241 have a midterm on the same evening as ECE 120 Midterm 2.
2. Your Midterm 2 time and location will be posted on Wednesday on Compass in the grades section (https://compass2g.illinois.edu). Please make sure you arrive at the correct location and time, since we will take attendance.
3. Lab 4 will be demoed between Tuesday October 17 and Friday October 20: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Lab+4
   **The deadline to sign up for your Lab 4 demo time is this Monday October 16.** Sign up using your lab toolbox number only at the following doodle poll: https://doodle.com/poll/g9h3sv8rg7b5d432. We are deleting invalid and duplicate entries. **The poll data will be downloaded on Tuesday October 17 and no further signups will be accepted.** We highly recommend that you use a Doodle account to sign up to prevent others from deleting your signup by mistake.
4. Homework 7 is a written homework. It is due this Friday October 20 at 2:30 pm in the ECE 120 mailboxes located opposite 3026 ECEB: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Homework+7

**October 8: Week 7 overview**

Dear ECE 120 students:

1. Homework 6 is a written homework. It is due this Friday October 13 at 2:30 pm in the ECE 120 mailboxes located opposite 3026 ECEB: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Homework+6
2. Lab 4 will be demoed between Tuesday October 17 and Friday October 20: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Lab+4
   **The deadline to sign up for your Lab 4 demo time is Monday October 16.** Sign up using your lab toolbox number only at the following doodle poll: https://doodle.com/poll/g9h3sv8rg7b5d432. We are deleting invalid and duplicate entries. **The poll data will be downloaded on Tuesday October 17 and no further signups will be accepted.** We highly recommend that you use a Doodle account to sign up to prevent others from deleting your signup by mistake.
3. Midterm 2 will take place on Tuesday October 24 at 8:30-10:00 pm. **The deadline to inform us of a conflict for Midterm 2 is Monday October 16.** All information about Midterm 2 can be found on the course wiki: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Midterm+2
   On that page you will find a link to a conflict signup form: https://illinois.edu/fb/sec/6664506
   Please note that most sections of Math 241 have a midterm on the same evening as ECE 120 Midterm 2.
4. The university registrar has scheduled final exams. Find complete information about the ECE 120 final exam on the course wiki: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/di
Lab policy reminder: A failing grade (F) for the course will be given to any student who does not score at least 50% in the graded labs. More information on https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Course+Overview+and+Policies.

October 1: Week 6 overview

Dear ECE 120 students:

1. Lab 3 is due this week during the demo time you and your partner have selected. https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Lab+3.
   1. The deadline to sign up for a demo time is Monday October 2: http://doodle.com/poll/ff64sntiiz8a5
   2. You should complete the lab with your partner before your demo time and use the demo time only for grading.
   3. Both partners must attend the demo for both to receive grades.
   4. You must attend the demo you have selected. You will not be graded without a valid sign up.
2. Homework 5 is a written homework. It is due this Friday October 6 at 2:30 pm in the ECE 120 mailboxes located opposite 3026 ECEB: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Homework+5
3. Your overall Midterm 1 grade has been posted on Compass (https://compass2.g.illinois.edu). According to Course Policies, it is either the average of your Midterm 1A and 1B scores or just your Midterm 1B score, whichever is higher.

September 24: Week 5 overview

Dear ECE 120 students:

1. All students must take Midterm 1B. It will be available from Wednesday September 27 to Friday September 29 in the Computer-Based Testing Facility (CBTF): https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Midterm+1B
   You may not bring a calculator to Midterm 1B, but you may use the on-screen calculator app that is part of the EWS environment.
2. Lab 3 is to be done by teams of 2 students with a lab toolbox. https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Lab+3.
   1. Your lab partner does NOT need to be in your same section. If you have any issues finding a partner, please feel free to write your contact information in the comments section of Lab 3.
   2. Once you find a partner, you have to pick up your lab toolbox in 4022 ECEB during TA office hours by this Friday September 29. Do not delay, you will need the toolbox number to be able to sign up for your demo time. No exceptions will be made if you miss the deadline.
   3. When you have a partner and a toolbox number, sign up at the following doodle for your demo time: http://doodle.com/poll/ff64snhtnii r8a5. Sign up early, because available slots are limited, and we will enforce appointments. No exceptions. Make sure you sign up by writing your toolbox number only once because we will delete invalid or duplicate entries.
3. Homework 4 is a written homework. It is due this Friday September 29 at 2:30 pm in the ECE 120 mailboxes located opposite 3026 ECEB: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Homework+4
   Since this is the first written homework, carefully read the submission instructions here: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Homeworks
   In particular, note that late or unstapled homework will not be graded. Feel free to ask questions in the comments section of Homework 4 or during office hours.

September 20: Additional week 4 announcements

Dear ECE 120 students:

1. There will be two review sessions for Midterm 1B this weekend.
   1. HKN Review Session: Saturday, September 23 at 11:00am-1:00pm in 1013 ECEB. This review session is run by students and is not endorsed by the course instructors.
   2. UA Review Session: Sunday, September 24 at 2:00-4:00pm in 1013
ECEB

2. There will be no lectures on Monday, September 25.
3. Lab 3 has been posted at https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Lab+3.
   The instructions for getting started on this lab are complicated, so I am posting
   them below.

Read this first!

Lab 3, Lab 4 and Lab 5 are a sequence of hardware labs, to be done in
teachers of two students. No single student will be allowed. If you need help
getting a partner, feel free to leave your contact information in the comments
section at the bottom of the lab page. Team members do not have to be in
the same section.

To complete Lab 3, there are several deadlines to meet:

- **by Friday 9/29:** you and your lab partner must pick up your
  hardware lab toolbox during TA office hours in 4022 ECEB. More
details under Picking up your toolbox below.
- **by Monday 10/2:** you or your lab partner must sign up for a demo
  slot during Tuesday 10/3 to Friday 10/6 using the following Doodle
  poll. Each team must sign up only once using their lab toolbox
  number only. We will delete invalid or duplicate entries. More
  details under Signing up for a demo slot below.
- **before your demo slot:** you and your lab partner must follow the
  instructions in this lab to build and test a working circuit.
- **during your demo slot:** you and your lab partner must demonstrate
  your working circuit to a TA in 4022 ECEB. Both students must be
  present to receive credit.

Please ask all questions about this assignment during the TA and UA office
hours or in the comment section of the Lab 3 page. Questions sent via e-mail
will not be answered.

Picking up your toolbox

- Print this form and sign it in pen with your lab partner.
- Take both of your i-cards to TA office hours in 4022 ECEB, where a
  TA will sign out and give you one lab toolbox per team.
- You and your partner will keep this toolbox until you demo Lab 5,
  unless you want to change partners after Lab 3.
- To pick up the toolbox, both students do NOT need to be present,
  but you must provide both student IDs and the form must be signed
  by both.

Signing up for a demo slot

- Each team must sign up only once on the Doodle poll. We will
  delete duplicate entries.
- You must sign up using your toolbox number only (e.g. 253). We
  will delete invalid entries.
- Each demo slot is limited to 12 teams.
- If you demo on Tuesday or Wednesday, you will get 4 or 2
  bonus points, respectively. Scores will be capped at the maximum
  number of points available.
- At the demo slot sign up deadline, a snapshot will be taken of the
  Doodle poll. If you do not have an appointment at that time, you will
  get zero on the lab.
- We recommend signing up while logged in to a Doodle account,
  so that no-one else can delete your appointment by mistake.
- You must demo your circuit during the demo slot that appears
  in our appointment sheet. Please be aware that your word or
  showing us a screenshot of your appointment will not be
  considered proof that you registered for a slot.
September 17: Week 4 overview

Dear ECE 120 students:

1. Midterm 1A will be available from Wednesday September 20 to Friday September 22 in the Computer-Based Testing Facility (CBTF):
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Midterm+1A
2. Midterm 1B will be available from Wednesday September 27 to Friday September 29 in the Computer-Based Testing Facility (CBTF):
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Midterm+1B
3. You may not bring a calculator to Midterm 1A or Midterm 1B, but you may use the on-screen calculator app that is part of the EWS environment.
4. You must take both Midterm 1A and Midterm 1B. They are available for scheduling:
   https://cbtf.engr.illinois.edu
5. The best way to prepare for the midterms is by doing the practice exams on PrairieLearn:
   https://prairielearn.engr.illinois.edu
   There will also be a review session for Midterm 1B on Sunday September 24 at 2:00-4:00 pm in 1013 ECEB.
6. Lab 2 has been posted on the syllabus page. It is due this Wednesday September 20 at 2:30 pm in your svn repository:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Lab+2
7. Homework 3 has been posted on the syllabus page. It is due this Friday September 22 at 2:30 pm on the PrairieLearn system:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Homework+3

September 10: Week 3 overview

Dear ECE 120 students:

1. Lab 1 has been posted on the syllabus page. It is due this Wednesday September 13 at 2:30 pm in your svn repository:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Lab+1
   You can work on the lab in 2022 ECEB during open lab hours on Tuesdays 5-8pm and Wednesdays 9am-3pm:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Office+Hours
   Or you can work on the lab in 440 DCL or 520 DCL any day of the week:
   https://it.engineering.illinois.edu/ews/lab-information/lab-hours-and-locations
   Or you can try working on the lab remotely:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Working+Remotely
2. Homework 2 has been posted on the syllabus page. It is due this Friday September 15 at 2:30 pm on the PrairieLearn system:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Homework+2
3. Lab 2 will be posted on the syllabus page on Wednesday September 13 and will be due on Wednesday September 20 at 2:30 pm.
4. Midterm 1A will be available from Wednesday September 20 to Friday September 22 in the Computer-Based Testing Facility (CBTF):
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Midterm+1A
   Reserve your time slot now using the CBTF scheduler:
   https://cbtf.engr.illinois.edu
   There will be a review session for Midterm 1A on Sunday September 17 at 2:00-4:00 pm in 1013 ECEB
5. Check Compass for grades: https://compass2g.illinois.edu. Discussion 1 and HW 1 grades have been posted already.

September 7: James Scholar Honors Lab

There is still some space in the ECE 120 James Scholar Honors Lab. If you are interested, please go to 1001 ECEB during one of the following time slots and let the head TA Tyler Graham know that you missed the intro session so that he can catch you up:

1. today Thursday September 7, 6-7pm
2. today Thursday September 7, 7-8pm
3. tomorrow Friday September 8, 4-5pm
4. tomorrow Friday September 8, 5-6pm

More info: https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/James+Scholar+Honors+Lab
September 3: Week 2 overview

Dear ECE 120 students:

1. There is no class on Monday September 4 due to the Labor Day holiday.
2. The solution to the Discussion 1 worksheet has been posted on the Syllabus page:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Syllabus
   All future discussion worksheet solutions will be posted on the Syllabus page after completion.
3. If you need to change your discussion section to avoid being penalized for late arrival, please go to the following page:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Changing+Your+Discussion+Section
4. Homework 1 has been posted on the syllabus page. It is due this Friday September 8 at 2:30 pm on the PrairieLearn system:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Homework+1
5. Lab 1 has been posted on the syllabus page. It is due next Wednesday September 13 at 2:30 pm in your svn repository:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Lab+1
   You can work on the lab in 2022 ECEB during open lab hours on Tuesdays 5-8pm and Wednesdays 9am-3pm:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Office+Hours
   Or you can work on the lab in 440 DCL or 520 DCL any day of the week:
   https://it.engineering.illinois.edu/ews/lab-information/lab-hours-and-locations
   Or you can try working on the lab remotely:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Working+Remotely
6. Office hours will begin this Tuesday September 5. Please check the schedule on the course website:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Office+Hours
7. You are encouraged to login to the exam scheduler of the Computer-Based Testing Facility (CBTF):
   https://cbtf.engr.illinois.edu/
   Simply logging in will enroll you to receive notifications when Midterm 1A and Midterm 1B become available for you to schedule.

August 27: Week 1 overview

Dear ECE 120 students:

1. Welcome to ECE 120! Please find the course wiki here:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Home
2. Read what you need to know on the first day of class here:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Course+Overview+and+Policies
3. The Syllabus page contains links to instructors' daily materials and information about homework, labs and exams:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Syllabus
4. Discussion 1 will be held this Thursday August 31. Please be on time because we will be penalizing late arrivals. We highly suggest that you take into account travel time when choosing your discussion section. If you realize you will need to change your discussion section to avoid being penalized, please go to the following page:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Changing+Your+Discussion+Section
5. Homework 1 has been posted on the syllabus page. It is due Friday September 8 at 2:30 pm on the PrairieLearn system:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Homework+1
6. Lab 1 has been posted on the syllabus page. It is due Wednesday September 13 at 2:30 pm in your svn repository:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Lab+1
7. Office hours will begin Tuesday September 5. Please check the schedule on the course website:
   https://wiki.illinois.edu/wiki/display/ece120/Office+Hours