

# ECE 303 - Junior Seminar

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
University of Massachusetts at Amherst

**Fall 2021**

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**Day & Time:** Fridays, 1:25-2:15  
**Place:** Goessmann Lab Addition, Room 64  
**Instructor:** Prof. Neal G. Anderson (210E Marcus, anderson@ecs.umass.edu)  
**Office Hours:** MW 2:00-3:30, 210E Marcus or via Zoom (link on Moodle). Also by appt.

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## Course Description

Overview of the electrical and computer engineering field, including introduction to various subdisciplines and the corresponding upper-level ECE courses as well as non-technical dimensions of educational and professional planning and practice.

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## Tentative Seminar Schedule

- September 3 Course Overview Professor Anderson

### Part 1 - Technical Overview of Electrical and Computer Engineering

- September 3 Micro- / Nano- / Opto-electronic Devices Professor Anderson
- September 10 Communications, Signal Proc. & Control Professor Goeckel
- September 17 Security Engineering Professor Burleson
- September 24 RF & Microwave Engineering Professor Siqueira
- October 1 Computer Hardware Professor Holcomb
- October 8 Electronics Professor Jackson
- October 15 Computer Software, Systems & Networks Professor Anwar

### Part 2 - Non-Technical Dimensions of Electrical and Computer Engineering

- October 22 Professional Ethics Lecture Professor Merton (Isenberg)
  - October 29 Technology & Society Lecture: *Face Recognition: Can we get it under control?* Professor Erik Learned-Miller (CICS)
  - November 5 Innovation & Entrepreneurship Lecture: *Does Regulation Stifle Innovation?* TBA (remote lecture)
  - November 12 Graduate and Continuing Education Professor Goeckel
  - November 19 ECE Career Landscape Lecture: *Engineer Your Future: We Can Help* Sally Darby (CoE Career Development & Experiential Learning Center)
  - December 3 ECE Career Landscape Lecture: *Shifting the Default: Challenging the Notion of the Standard Human in Technology Development and Management* Prof. Woodrow Winchester III, (University of Maryland Baltimore County) Remote livestreamed lecture
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## Course Requirements

**Attendance:** Attendance at all seminars is mandatory. Attendance will be registered by your submission of a brief written reflection—in the form of answers to a Moodle Quiz—during or shortly after each session. Unexcused absences will result in a grade penalty (see “Grading” below). You are expected to arrive on time and stay for the full session. No food please!

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**Writings:** There are two required writing assignments for ECE 303, both of which must be completed satisfactorily in order to pass the course (see “Grading” below).

- *Technology and Society Essay* - This is a brief essay that will discuss an issue of interest to the student, subject to the instructor’s approval, that is related to the social, political, or cultural impact of a particular ECE-related technology. **(Due Friday, October 15 by 5PM)**
- *Engineering Ethics Essay* – This is a brief essay exploring a case study in engineering practice with ethical dimensions. **(Due Friday, November 12 by 5PM)**

Detailed descriptions of both essay assignments will be posted on Moodle when assigned.

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## Grading

- If both writing assignments are completed satisfactorily and on time and the student has *no* unexcused absences\*, then the student will receive a course grade of “A”.
  - If both writing assignments are completed satisfactorily but one or both are completed late *and/or* the student has one or more unexcused absences\*, then the course grade will be assigned as follows:
    - Course Grade = A- for 1 unexcused absence or late assignment
    - Course Grade = B for 2 unexcused absences and/or late assignments (in any combo)
    - Course Grade = C for 3 unexcused absences and/or late assignments (in any combo)
    - Course Grade = D for 4 unexcused absences and/or late assignments (in any combo)
    - Course Grade = F for 5 unexcused absences and/or late assignments (in any combo)
  - In addition
    - If the student fails to satisfactorily complete either of the two writing assignments, then the student will fail the course regardless of attendance record.
    - If an assignment is returned to the student as “unsatisfactory” and needs to be resubmitted, the grade will be lowered one notch (e.g. from X to X- or from Y+ to Y).
  - \* **Important Note on Attendance:** Failure to submit acceptable responses to the Moodle Quiz for any given session within the specified time window will be treated as an unexcused absence. You will not be penalized in any way for legitimate absences, but in order to have them excused ***it is your responsibility*** to contact the instructor in a timely manner and to secure any required documentation.
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## Relation to EE and CE Degree Program Outcomes

ECE 303 supports the following educational outcomes of the EE and CE degree programs:

- Understand professional and ethical responsibility.
  - Be able to communicate effectively.
  - Understand the impact of engineering solutions in a global, economic, environmental and societal context.
  - Recognize the need for, and be able to engage in, life-long learning.
  - Have knowledge of contemporary issues.
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## Policies and Statements

**Classroom Safety** • For the health and safety of all members of our campus community, students are expected to follow all COVID-related policies on campus. At the start of the Fall 2021 semester, there are two policies in effect that deserve special mention. First, students are required to follow the [COVID-19 Daily Self-Checklist](#). Students who are ill must not attend class, and they will be offered reasonable accommodations for missed work. Second, students must follow the masking policy while it remains in effect. Your instructor will remind you to wear a mask that securely covers your mouth and nose, and direct you to a nearby mask station if you do not have one. If you are unwilling to mask, you will be asked to leave the class. If you do not leave the class, the instructor will end the class, and the Dean of Students office will be informed that you have disrupted class and violated the [Guidelines for Classroom Civility and Respect](#). Anyone with a mask exemption must provide prior written notice to the instructor and must maintain at least six feet of distance from faculty and other students at all times.

**Inclusivity** • Everyone should feel that they are an integral part of the community and that all individuals and their perspectives are respected. A diversity of perspective and experience provides a valuable source of ideas, problem solving strategies, and engineering creativity. If you feel that your contribution is not being valued or respected for any reason, please speak with me privately. If you wish to communicate with someone else in the College or University, there are several ways to do so anonymously or to provide contact information if you so choose:

1. Notify the University Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office through the “Report a Climate Incident” form: <https://www.umass.edu/diversity/incident-report-form>  
Note that this form requires sharing name and contact information.
2. Speak with Assistant Dean Dr. Paula Rees ([rees@umass.edu](mailto:rees@umass.edu)).
3. Report an incident anonymously to the College of Engineering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office
  - Climate Concerns and Suggestions - <https://tinyurl.com/UMassEngineerClimate>
  - Classroom Experience - <https://tinyurl.com/UMassEngineerClassroom>
4. Reach out to the departmental DEI Committee. You can find the anonymous ECE feedback form on <https://ece.umass.edu/ece-diversity-equity-inclusion> (scroll down for feedback link)

We are all members of an academic community with a shared responsibility to cultivate a climate where all individuals are valued and where both they and their ideas are treated with respect.

**Accessibility Support Services** • Your success in this class is important to me. We all learn differently and bring different strengths and needs to the class. The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to making reasonable, effective and appropriate accommodations to meet the needs of all students and help create a barrier-free campus. If you have a qualifying disability and require accommodations while participating in this course, please work with Disability Services to have an accommodation letter sent to me in a timely manner. If you have a disability but are not yet affiliated with Disability Services, please register with Disability Services (<https://www.umass.edu/disability/students>). Information on services and materials for registering are also available on their website [www.umass.edu/disability](http://www.umass.edu/disability).

If you are eligible for exam accommodations, your exams will be administered by the exam proctoring center. Contact Disability Services immediately, and comply with their exam scheduling policies, including the requirement that you book your exams at least seven days in advance of the exam date. *It is incumbent upon you contact me during the first few weeks of the semester, or shortly following registration with Disability Services, to ensure that your accommodations are being sufficiently met, including extra time and note-taking access, as applicable.*

Finally, beyond disability accommodations, if there are aspects of the course that prevent you from being fully included in the class, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course.

**Academic Honesty Statement** • Maintaining the integrity of scholarship and research within institutions of higher education requires a cultural commitment. All members of the UMass Amherst community are expected to be knowledgeable of and uphold our academic honesty policies (<https://www.umass.edu/honesty/>). Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and *abetting or facilitating* dishonesty. Instructors are requested to take reasonable steps to address academic misconduct, and appropriate sanctions may be imposed on any student who has committed an act of academic dishonesty. Any person who has reason to believe that a fellow student has committed academic dishonesty should bring such information to the attention of the appropriate course instructor or an alternate, trusted member of the faculty or College administration as soon as possible. Instances of academic dishonesty not related to a specific course should be brought to the attention of the appropriate department Head or Chair. Community members may fill out the College's classroom experience form (<https://tinyurl.com/UMassEngineerClassroom>) to report academic dishonesty anonymously. Since students are expected to be familiar with this policy and the commonly accepted standards of academic integrity, ignorance of such standards is not normally sufficient evidence of lack of intent.

#### **Cheating and Plagiarism Policy**

The University Academic Honesty Policy Applies in this and all courses. This policy can be found on the University Web Page (<https://www.umass.edu/honesty/>). Appendix B covers plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and facilitating dishonesty. Students are expected to be familiar with the definitions and examples provided.

**Health and Wellbeing** • You are not alone at UMass – many people care about your wellbeing and many resources are available to help you thrive and succeed. The College recognizes that coursework is challenging and that classes are not the only demand in your life. Success in this course and the College of Engineering depends heavily on your personal health and wellbeing. Recognize that while stress is an expected part of the college experience, it can be compounded by unexpected setbacks or life changes outside the classroom. Strive to reframe challenges as an unavoidable pathway to success. Reflect on your role in taking care of yourself throughout the term, before the demands of exams and projects reach their peak. Please feel free to reach out to me about any difficulty you may be having that may impact your performance as soon as it occurs and before it becomes too overwhelming.

You can learn about the confidential mental health services available on campus by calling the Center for Counseling and Psychological Health (CCPH) by visiting their website at [umass.edu/counseling](http://umass.edu/counseling). There are many other resources on campus for students facing personal, financial or life challenges to find support, stay in school, and graduate (<https://www.umass.edu/studentlife/single-stop>). Within the College, you may reach out to myself, your academic advisor, the Office of Student Affairs (<http://engineering.umass.edu/current-students/academics-advising>) or the Office of Community Equity and Inclusion ([rees@umass.edu](mailto:rees@umass.edu)). I encourage you to contact support services on campus

that stand ready to assist you. Remember that I am here to help you find the resources you need.

**Pronouns and Names** • Everyone has the right to be addressed by the name and pronouns that they use for themselves. Students can indicate their preferred/chosen first name and pronouns on SPIRE, which appear on class rosters. Please let me know what name and pronouns I should use for you if they are not on the roster. A student's chosen name and pronouns are to be respected at all times in the classroom. To learn more, please see this resource: [https://www.umass.edu/stonewall/sites/default/files/pronouns\\_intro.pdf](https://www.umass.edu/stonewall/sites/default/files/pronouns_intro.pdf)

**Gender Respect and Title IX** • The University of Massachusetts Amherst aspires to be a university environment that is free of discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Faculty have the responsibility to inform students of resources and reporting options. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault, sexual misconduct, or sexual discrimination please see <https://www.umass.edu/titleix/what-to-do> for information about resources and reporting options. A report to the Title IX Coordinator may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the Title IX Coordinator's email (TitleIXCoordinator@umass.edu), telephone number (413.545.6124) or mail. UMass Amherst is committed to supporting community members who report concerns of prohibited conduct. Please reach out to me if you would like assistance connecting with any of these resources/options.