

ECE Undergraduate Core Courses Committee Meeting

Friday, February 16th, 2024

Attending: Arabshahi, Chen, Gadre, Hameed, Majumdar, Makhsous, Overly, Shepard, Swanson, Van Fossen, Wilson (Chair)

Agenda:

1. Review of EE 241 & EE 242 Master Course Descriptions (MCDs)
2. Review of EE 280 MCD

Minutes of February 2nd, 2024: Approved

Review of EE 241 & EE 242 MCDs

As part of its review of all core course MCDs, the committee took up a review of the MCDs for EE 241: *Programming for Signal and Information Processing Applications* and EE 242: *Signals, Systems, and Data I*.

- Makhsous presented proposed [MCD for EE 242](#)
- Gadre and Hameed agreed no textbook should be required, with both relying more extensively on prepared notes and slides for conveying course material.
 - Swanson wondered if listing a text as optional could put those students who decided against purchasing the textbook would be at a disadvantage.
 - Makhsous stated that all questions on the exam should be from material presented in the class meetings. Hameed and Gadre concurred.
- Members started a discussion regarding whether EE 241 should remain as a corequisite for EE 242, or if it should be a prerequisite.
 - Coordination of the two courses is difficult, especially with quarters that start mid-week with some students having a lab in the first week, and others not until the second week.
 - Discussion of this topic was tabled as out of the scope of this meeting, and the topic is to be revisited at a subsequent meeting set to focus on the issue.
- Members discussed removing some of the material on discrete topics.
 - Arabshahi raised the point that one of the main purposes of revising the signal processing series from EE 235/341 to EE 241/242/342 was to bring material on discrete topics into the lower-level course.
 - Course instructors present agreed to reach out to Kutz, who also teaches EE 242 but was unable to attend the committee meeting.
- Instructors will meet to discuss grading for the courses.

Discussion tabled, to be continued at subsequent meeting

Review of EE 280 MCD

As part of its review of all core course MCDs, the committee took up a review of the MCD for EE 280: *Exploring Devices*.

- Wilson presents proposed [MCD for EE 280](#)
- In discussing the grading structure listed, Makhsous asked if there could be flexibility in the percentages listed, allowing for instructor freedom.

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- Overly mentioned that the MCD was the document of record for the course, used by ABET in reviewing the curriculum, and by the university when courses change proposals or new course proposals are submitted for approval.
 - For course proposals, the percentages need to be specific on the MCD submitted with the proposal, and must add up to 100%.
 - For students, the instructor provided syllabus provides the framework for how the course will be evaluated by that particular instructor. This is when students see exactly how that specific offering will be graded.
- Majumdar stated his belief that the grading structure for core courses should remain constant regardless of instructor.
 - Helps provide consistency of material taught and is more reliable for downstream courses and use the core courses as prerequisites.
 - Wilson noted that the conversation around flexibility on grading is a larger discussion with many stakeholders, and it is outside the scope of this review. Such a discussion will be tabled until there is time for it to be the primary topic.

Motion to approve proposed EE 280 MCD: APPROVED