

Syllabus for ASEN 3300: Aerospace Electronics and Communications

Spring 2020, Morton & Rainville

Revised: 01/08/2020

Weekly schedule

Lecture: AERO 120, Monday and Wednesday, 8:30 – 9:20am

Lab: AERO 141, Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 – 10:20 am OR 10:30 – 12:20 pm

Final: AERO 141, May 6th 7:30-10:00pm

Instructors

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Teaching Assistants

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Class Web Portal

Canvas site at: canvas.colorado.edu

Required Texts and Equipment

- Laboratory Notebook (one per person, bound)
- ASEN 3300 Lab Kit: Provided to each group, students are responsible for replacement of items broken or not returned
- **Textbook:** Scherz and Monk, *Practical Electronics for Inventors*, 4th edition; ISBN-10: 1259587541

Suggested Reference Texts

- Horowitz and Hill, *The Art of Electronics*, 3rd edition; ISBN-10: 0521809266
- Wolfson, *Essential University Physics, Volume 2*, 3rd edition; ISBN-10: 0321976428

Course Overview

Modern aerospace vehicles rely on electronics, computers, and communications as essential system components. While these systems are most often designed by Electrical Engineers, to be effective as system designers, integrators, and analysts, Aerospace Engineers must have a solid understanding of these critical subsystem areas. The aim of this course is to provide an overview of i) analog electronics, ii) digital electronics, and iii) communication system concepts as they are used in the aerospace industry. **The emphasis is on practical,**

hands-on experience in a select number of key areas. Throughout the course, students work in teams to design, build, test, and analyze electronic circuits, work with electronic instruments, interface these instruments to a computer, and implement a communications link. It is our goal that students walk away from this class with a basic understanding of instrumentation electronics, computer interfacing, and radio communications. This understanding is derived from experience building and working with real electronics in the lab.

Course Outline

The course is divided into three main sections: i) analog electronics, ii) digital electronics, and iii) communications. A number of the lab experiments in all three sections are designed to utilize the Analog Devices ADXL321 accelerometer. In the Analog Electronics section of the course we look at the accelerometer output to study vibrations of a beam. In the process, we build passive circuits to lower the output range of the accelerometer and active circuits to amplify it, conditioning circuits to filter noise in the output, and learn to use multimeters, oscilloscopes, and spectrum analyzers. In the second section of the course on Digital Electronics, we log data from the accelerometer instrument to the lab station computers and discuss relevant issues such as communications protocols, analog-to-digital and digital-to-analog conversions, and sampling. In the final section of the course on Communications, we will use the accelerometer data as a source of telemetry; modulate carrier signals, compute satellite communications link budgets, and design and conduct a GPS receiver experiment.

Prerequisites

Physics II, Aerospace Mathematics, and Introduction to Dynamics and Systems are prerequisites for this course. In fact, much of the material covered in this class you have been exposed to already in these earlier courses. We expect you to build upon this experience base and make connections between the new material and the old. In ASEN 2001-2004 you have seen and used instrumentation electronics, but in general, someone else took care of designing them. In Physics II you covered some circuit theory, but did not build any practical systems. For this course it is assumed that you have a working knowledge of the prerequisite material. We will build on this foundation by revisiting these topics in more detail and conducting hands-on laboratory experiments.

Class Format

The semester is organized into 12 weekly laboratory modules with other weeks utilized for exams. With the exception of the first lab, each lab module lasts one week beginning with the Monday lecture session. The Monday class introduces the material to be studied in the lab, and provides an overview of the reading material and the lab activities, including a pre-lab homework assignment. The following Tuesday lab session begins with an evaluation of the pre-lab assignment, and a quiz, followed by group lab work for the remainder of the period. Instructors and teaching assistants are available in the lab to answer questions, demonstrate how to use equipment, and discuss the material with individual lab groups. Thursday's lab section continues the group work on the lab with emphasis on documentation of method and analysis of results for inclusion in the lab report. The Wednesday lecture period is used to discuss the previous week's lab reports and to provide additional material and answer questions about the ongoing lab. **Group lab reports are due prior to the beginning of class on Monday** and will be submitted as **electronic copies through Canvas** for grading. Please review the Lab Guidelines handout for more information. The group lab reports are graded and returned to your group in one week whenever possible, during the Tuesday lab period.

Assessment / Written and Practical Exams

Assessment of individual student knowledge and ability is conducted **using written and practical examinations**. For the schedule of the exams please see the class schedule. Written exams will take place in the classroom and the practical exams will take place at the same stations where you do your lab work (ITLL). The practical exam involves demonstrating knowledge and skills such as proper use of equipment, how to set up a circuit, and how

to perform measurements.

Course Grading

The final grade is a combination of individual and group work.

Type	Description	Percentage
Individual Work (IW) (60% total)	Quizzes and pre-lab assignments (best 11 out of 12)	10%
	Written Exams (2)	30%
	Practical Exams (2)	20%
Group Work (GW)	Lab Reports (12)	40%
	Peer evaluation factor (PEF)	0.5 – 1.0x
Final Grade (FG)	$FG = IW + (PEF \times GW)$	100%

Final Course Grade: Your final course grade is computed as follows:

- Your individual grade is calculated as $IW/0.6$ (normalized to the 60% maximum)
- If your individual grade is **a C or better** then your final grade (FG) is the sum of the Individual Work (IW) and Group Work (GW) grades:

$$FG = IW + (PEF \times GW)$$

- If your individual grade is **below a C**, then your final grade is the individual grade.
- The Peer Evaluation Factor (PEF) is a percentile value of your effort in the lab and completing the reports.

Rationale for course assignments:

- Homework reinforces the mental processes that help you to become proficient in a subject. In addition to the assigned lab reports, we encourage you to work additional problems for practice. Before beginning any assignment, you should read the text and work the examples in the text.
- Experimental laboratory exercises are either more complex than hands-on homework or require special equipment. You will work in teams to collect and analyze the data, as well as write up the experimental laboratory report.
- Exams and quizzes provide a gauge to determine what you have learned individually.
- Lab experiments help you to learn how to synthesize the basic concepts, methods, and tools presented in the course curriculum. The team-oriented lab approach will give you experience in working and cooperating in groups as is typical in industry.

Grading Philosophy

The individual grade is the measure of the competency and will indicate your level of understanding the course material, and is assessed through the quizzes and exams. The group (lab) work is designed to enrich your learning experience and prepare you for success in the real-life work environment. Accordingly, the group grade is incorporated into the final grade only if your individual grade is a C or better. This policy makes it important to use the lab work to enhance your own learning. If the work in the assignment is split up among group members, be sure that the learning is not also split up, but is shared among the whole group. At the end of the semester you will evaluate your peers (all group members you worked with throughout the semester) and submit your scores to the instructors. The instructors will take your input and assign a PEF score between 50%

and 100% for each student for their effort in the lab and completing the reports. The group work (GW) grade then will be multiplied by the PEF score and added to the individual work (IW) score to calculate your final grade. The PEF score is thus a very significant part of your final grade and it is there to ensure that all students are contributing to the group work.

Cheating

Cheating will NOT be tolerated and the CU Honor Code will be upheld.

As group work is part of this class (lab experiments and report), it is useful to clarify what is considered cheating. You are expected to perform the lab assignments as a group and dividing the workload equally. Communication within the group is encouraged. It is OK to discuss the assignments and reports with fellow students in the class as long as this is done with the intention of learning, i.e. understanding the material. Sharing results, or data analyses is permitted only under specific circumstances, when there is now way for you to retake the data or redo the analysis. For example, if you realize after finishing your lab work that your data are erroneous, you may use and analyze the data from a different group. However, in this case, you need to provide a full disclosure and explanation why data sharing was necessary, and give proper credit to the source. You may also want to notify the instructor(s) and/or the TAs.

Getting help with the lab work and reports from outside the class is generally not permitted. This includes help from senior students or using lab reports from previous years.

When in doubt about what is considered unethical, you should always exercise caution and ask the instructor(s) if they have any questions or concerns that what they are doing may be a violation of the honor code.

Logistics

1. Students are assigned to a team of 3 persons for each of the three sections of the course. The groups will be re-assigned twice during the semester (groups are assigned differently for labs 1-4, 5-8 and 9-12). The lead student (the top name assigned to a lab station) will stay with that station till the end of the semester.
2. Each lab station is issued a lab kit that is to be returned at the end of each section of the course. These can be stored in the ITLL lockers. The lead student at the station is ultimately responsible for replacing any items lost or not returned in working condition. If the lead student has issues with his lab partners/maintaining the toolbox, inform the instructor.
3. Teams work together to study the lab, design, implement, test, and analyze their circuits, and write the lab reports. Students are encouraged to collaborate in preparing for quizzes, discussing lab questions and results.
4. Each individual student is required to have a bound lab notebook. Each student should keep lab notes. The group will choose one set of notes to include in their weekly report (photocopy, scanned). Please write legibly in your lab notebook, and if you make a mistake, just make an X through that material.
5. Weekly quizzes and all exams are to be completed individually. Any type of collaboration or copying constitutes cheating and will result in a zero grade for all parties involved and will be reported. A repeated instance of cheating will be reported on the student's permanent record and will result in an F for the course. Please see also Honor Code web pages at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.
6. Weekly quizzes are given at the beginning of lab period, 8:30 am and 10:30 am on Tuesdays and end promptly at 8:40 am and 10:40 am. If you arrive after 8:40 am / 10:40 am, you can take the quiz late at 9:30 / 11:30 am, however a 25% penalty will be applied to your grade. Calculators are allowed, unless noted otherwise. No other help is allowed.
7. The purpose of the prelab assignment (completed individually) is to prepare you for the weekly lab. It is important to complete the prelab before Tuesday 8:30 am / 10:30 am; otherwise you will have difficulty

- completing the lab in the allotted lab time. The completion of the lab assignments will be checked 8:30 – 8:40 am and 10:30 – 10:40 am on Tuesday. In case of absence, zero points will be given.
8. Lab exercises are conducted together with your team and a single lab report is submitted at the end of the week. Collaborations with other groups including shared diagrams or extensive discussion of results must be acknowledged at the end of your report. Copying text or answers from another group with or without their permission constitutes cheating and will result in a zero grade for the weekly lab module. A repeated instance of cheating will be reported on the student's permanent record and will result in an F for the course. Please see also Honor Code web pages at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.
 9. Lab reports are due Monday by 12:00 noon. If late, the following deductions will be made:
 - a. 10% deduction for the group if turned in before 5 pm the same Monday
 - b. 50% deduction if turned in before 8 am the following Monday
 - c. No credit after 8 am the following Monday
 10. No make-up quizzes will be given or late labs accepted except under extenuating circumstances such as a school closure or sudden illness (with a note from a physician). Your lowest combined quiz/prelab score will be dropped as an attempt to allow for unforeseen incidents.
 11. University closure: If an assignment is due and the University is closed due to weather or other circumstance, then the assignment will be due on the next day that the University is open. In the event that a lab or lecture is cancelled due to a University closure, please check the web site and email for updated information. Check canvas announcements as well for course updates.
 12. Please check your schedules as soon as possible to determine if you expect to miss class on any of these days for religious or other reasons. If there is a conflict, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructors as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements. Make up exams due to illness require a note from a physician. Copying, collaborating, or discussing material in a written or oral exam during the exam period constitutes cheating and will result in an F for the course, and will be reported on the student's permanent record.

University Policies Spring 2020

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

PREFERRED STUDENT NAMES AND PRONOUNS

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, you must let the instructors know of any such conflicts within the first two weeks of the semester so that we can work with you to make reasonable arrangements.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.