Dordt College Engineering Department

EGR 170-02, Engineering Programming
for Instrumentation and Automation
Spring 2019 Syllabus

2018-19 Catalog Data

Engineering Programming for Instrumentation and Automation (3 credit hours) (occasional)

An introduction to structured computer programming with application to engineering measurement, data acquisition, instrumentation, and automation.
Prerequisite: Engineering 117. Corequisite: Mathematics 204; or permission of instructor.

Textbooks

Attaway, Stormy; MATLAB: A practical Introduction to Programming and Problem Solving, 4th edition, Butterworth-Heinemann, an imprint of Elsevier. ISBN 978-0-12-804525-1 (This is an officially required textbook for this class, section 02)

Attaway, Stormy; MATLAB: A practical Introduction to Programming and Problem Solving, 5th edition, Butterworth-Heinemann, an imprint of Elsevier. ISBN 978-0-12-815479-3 (This is an optional choice and will be supported in place of the 4th edition for this class, section 02)


Instructor

Professor Douglas De Boer, office telephone 712-722-6245, e-mail: Douglas.DeBoer@Dordt.edu Office hours: virtual open office policy. Office location SB1638.

Course Objectives and Outcomes

Creational Structure Students will explore the finite capabilities and limits of computer programming.

Creational Development Students will develop programs in procedural, object-oriented, and graphical programming environments.

Prerequisites by topic

An introduction to electrical engineering, differential equations as a co-requisite to assure adequate mathematical and engineering maturity for this course.

Computer use

Programming will be performed in Matlab and NI LabVIEW. In Section 02 (this section) several platforms for doing this programming will be introduced and supported. All assignments and handouts are available via Dordt’s "Canvas" course management system, https://dordt.instructure.com. An NCEES-approved calculator will be required for all tests and the final exam. See https://ncees.org/exams/calculator/.

Academic Integrity

This course is subject to the College’s policies on academic integrity. (https://www.dordt.edu/student-life/student-handbook/general-information#Academic%20Integrity) Also see the homework standards posted on the course web page and policies on the following pages of this syllabus.

Accommodations

Students who require assistance or accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability must contact the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities to access accommodations. Contact Marliss Van Der Zwaag at the Academic Enrichment Center, Telephone 722-6490, e-mail Marliss.VanDerZwaag@dordt.edu

Means of Evaluation:

Homework will be due on a weekly basis (10%), Three Projects (20% each), in-class quizzes (17%). Final presentation (13%). Professor De Boer records grades using grade points, A = 4.00, A- = 3.67, B+ = 3.33, B = 3.00, . . . D- = 0.67, F = 0.00. See https://dfdeboer.github.io/GDS.HTM for full details.

Role of this Course

This course is intended for sophomore engineering majors who are planning not to take a programming course in a general programming language such as C/ C++, Java, Python, Ruby, etc. as is typically offered by a computer science department.

Methods of Instruction

This is a studio-style class meaning that a variety of short tutorial lectures and demonstrations will be interleaved with opportunities for students to try new concepts themselves, all in a 150-minute long period held once weekly. Additionally, students will be expected to use online resources and the assigned textbooks to augment the material presented by the professor.
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## EGR 170-02, Engineering Programming for Instrumentation and Automation
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## Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/17</td>
<td>Matlab: Introduction, variables and operators, matrices, functions</td>
<td><em>Attaway's Text: Chapters 1 and 2</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/24</td>
<td>Matlab: Input and output, 2-D plots, flow control via if-else and switch.</td>
<td><em>Attaway's Text: Chapters 3 and 4</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/31</td>
<td>Matlab: Loops, hierarchy of functions and variables in a program</td>
<td><em>Attaway's Text: Chapters 5 and 6</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2/07</td>
<td>Matlab: Data structures and strings (working with text and other organized data.)</td>
<td><em>Attaway's Text: Chapters 7 and 8</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>Matlab: Data transfer and object-oriented programming</td>
<td><em>Attaway's Text: Chapters 9 and 11</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/21</td>
<td>Matlab: Signal processing, efficient math operations</td>
<td><em>Attaway's Text: Chapters 13 and 14, slides</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2/28</td>
<td><strong>Project 1</strong>: Lego Mindstorms (First of two weeks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/07</td>
<td><strong>Project 1</strong>: Lego Mindstorms (Second of two weeks)</td>
<td><strong>Project 1 report due Wednesday, 3/20 at 5:00 PM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>No class— Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>Labview: Introduction to the Labview programming environment and loops</td>
<td><em>Essick's Text: Chapters 1, 2 and 3</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/28</td>
<td>Labview: Functions via Mathscript nodes, symbol coding (integers, ASCII), strings</td>
<td><em>Essick's Text: Chapters 4, and 16, slides</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/04</td>
<td>Labview: Introduction NI DAQ Assistant hardware dongle, physical transport of signals, OSI seven-layer interconnection model, Nyquist low-pass sampling theory</td>
<td><em>Essick's Text: Chapters 5, 6, and 7, slides</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>4/11</td>
<td><strong>Project 2</strong>: Temperature measurement and analysis (Week 1 of 1.5 weeks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/18</td>
<td>End of Project 2, start of <strong>Project 3</strong> (Week 2—half period—of 1.5 weeks for Project 1, Week 1—half period—of 1.5 weeks for Project 3)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4/25</td>
<td>Labview: Filtering signals via shift registers, program control via case structures</td>
<td><em>Essick's Text: Chapters 8, and 19, slides</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>5/02</td>
<td><strong>Project 3</strong> (Week 2 of 1.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 5/07</td>
<td>8:00 AM to 12:30 PM, Final presentations—during the scheduled final exam period.</td>
<td><strong>Project 3 report due Tuesday, 5/07 with your final presentation</strong></td>
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This schedule may vary up to two weeks in order to accommodate student interests and abilities.
Academic Integrity

Dordt College is committed to developing a community of Christian scholars where all members accept the responsibility of practicing personal and academic integrity in obedience to biblical teaching. For students, this means not lying, cheating, or stealing others' work to gain academic advantage; it also means opposing academic dishonesty.

Academic Dishonesty. Students found to be academically dishonest will receive academic sanctions from their professor (from a failing grade on the particular academic task to a failing grade in the course), who will report the incident and the sanction given to the Student Life Committee for possible institutional sanctions (from a warning to dismissal from the college).

Appeals in such matters will be handled by the student disciplinary process as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Definitions

**Academic dishonesty** at Dordt College includes, but is not limited to, the following behaviors:

**Stealing/Plagiarizing**: copying another's work or ideas and creating the impression that they are one's own by failing to give proper credit or citation. This includes reading or hearing another's work or ideas and using them as one's own; quoting, paraphrasing, or condensing another's work without giving proper credit; purchasing or receiving another's work and using, handling, or submitting it as one's own work.

**Cheating**: unauthorized use of any study aids, equipment, or another's work during an academic task. This includes using unauthorized aids or other equipment during an examination; copying or looking at another individual's examination; taking or passing information to another individual during or after an examination; taking an examination for another individual; allowing another individual to take one's examination; stealing examinations.

All graded academic tasks are expected to be performed on an individual basis unless otherwise stated by the instructor.

An academic task may not be submitted by a student for course credit in more than one course without the permission of all instructors.

**Lying/Fabricating**: the intentional, unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation during an academic task. This includes changing or adding an answer on an examination and resubmitting it to change the grade; inventing data for a laboratory exercise or report.

**Facilitating Academic Dishonesty**: knowingly allowing or helping another individual to plagiarize, cheat, or fabricate information.

Students must do their own work. In Prof. De Boer's courses students may verbally discuss homework but may not show ungraded papers to each other. Detail on this policy can be found on the web at [https://dfdeboer.github.io/S19/HWSTDS19.HTM#DYOW](https://dfdeboer.github.io/S19/HWSTDS19.HTM#DYOW). This policy applies to the whole course, not just homework.

Attendance

Students are expected to be present for every class and laboratory period. Penalties for absence from class are left to the instructor. No designated number of skips is permitted.

**Student Responsibility**: Students shall notify each professor concerning the reason for absence prior to or immediately upon returning to class or in accordance with the instructor's method of accounting for absences. Students shall notify student services concerning all illnesses.

**Unexcused absences** are defined as failing to notify the instructor of the reason for the absence, or if the instructor deems the reason as illegitimate.

**Faculty initiatives**: The instructor may contact student services to check on the illness record of the students. They should also alert student services and contact the student directly concerning excessive absences, and must, if asked, report attendance patterns. Any instructor may, after due
warning and according to guidelines established in the class syllabus, penalize the student by reducing the semester grade by a given percentage.

**Student Services Responsibility:** Normally, student services does not notify instructors concerning student illness. Student services may alert instructors to serious problems. Decisions to inform instructors about serious problems will be made balancing the need to respect confidentiality and the responsibility to keep instructors appropriately informed about their students. Any student with serious problems is strongly advised to work closely with student services and follow the process to insure adequate communication between all parties in as efficient a way as possible.

**Excused Absence for Activities:** Students have obligations in many realms, so special care shall be taken not to demand commitments for participation in extra-curricular events that cause neglect in other areas. Sponsors/coaches shall inform students from the beginning of the time and effort expected of them. Sponsors/coaches shall demand a minimum of absences from other classes, restrict student involvement to only those crucially involved, and make efforts to choose a time/date for the event that is least invasive of classroom or lab time. In the case of conflicts, resolution shall be the responsibility of the sponsor/coach and the instructor with no penalty to the student (The appeals process outlined in the section titled Complaints Regarding Instruction in the Student Handbook shall be used if needed). The sponsor shall email faculty and student services a list of names, dates, and activities in advance of the event. The student must contact the instructor and make arrangements for any missed work.

Professor De Boer expects to be notified at least a day in advance when you can reasonably be expected to have known that far in advance of a time when you will have to miss a class for a scheduled event of higher priority. In addition to the options listed above, missing classes without notification or for insubstantial reasons could be cause for being classified as an “uncooperative student” which could lead to dismissal from the course.

**Late work**

Be coachable. Start work early so you can ask questions in class, by telephone, by e-mail, and at the Professor’s office. Anything handed in late will be accepted for possible grading, but no grade will be entered in the grade book, the work will not be returned to you, and the empty grade will function as a zero or an “F.” Usually the item will never be graded. If, in the judgment of Prof. De Boer, grading the late item might improve the course grade, and if the reasons for the late work are acceptable and if there is no pattern of carelessness, then Prof. De Boer may choose to estimate a grade or actually grade the late work and enter the grade(s) in the grade book. Prof. De Boer may decide to estimate or fully grade a late item at any time after the item is handed in, but usually will do so at the end of the course after all student course activities are complete. Additionally, if a pattern of late work develops, Professor De Boer will warn the student. After that warning if the problem is not resolved, a reduced course grade might result, and/or the student may be classified as “uncooperative” which could lead to dismissal from the course.

(continues on next page)
Missed tests, quizzes, exams or other in-class items that are graded

Professor De Boer announces his test schedule and major due dates for projects in the first week of classes. During the first two or three weeks of classes and possibly at other times, if there is good cause, students may negotiate to change the date(s) for the entire class to avoid a conflict for any one student. However, in the week before a test Prof. De Boer is very reluctant to negotiate the date. If you realize that you have a schedule conflict with a test date or other due date, discuss this with Prof. De Boer as soon as possible.

If you are late to a test or quiz you must still finish at the scheduled time.

When an in-class item is missed entirely due to unplanned absence from the classroom Professor De Boer does not give a make-up test or offer extra credit work or similar. If you miss an in-class event entirely (such as a test) the item will go in the grade book as a blank score which will count as an “F.” At the end of the semester after all your course work is complete Prof. De Boer will reassess the situation and might choose to estimate what he thinks you might have earned based on any evidence he can find relevant to the situation. If an estimated grade is granted, it may still be discounted to a lower grade than the other tests and items you completed if negligence is a factor. A cell phone alarm accidentally set to PM instead of AM that causes you to miss an alarm is an example of negligence. If a test is missed due to illness (fever, nausea, etc., not just a “bad cold”) then be sure to report the illness to student services before the test or during the test period or as early as is reasonable. If student services can verify your illness to Prof. De Boer, an estimated grade that is non-punitive will be given at the end of the semester.

Class Participation, Professionalism

Professor De Boer does not routinely grade class participation or professionalism. These are expected. If there is a problem, Prof. De Boer will talk about it privately with you. Lack of these can be a cause for adjusting your course grade downward, even to an “F,” but if Professor De Boer has not discussed these matters privately with you, you can assume you are doing well enough that your course grade will not be adjusted due to these matters.

Description of assignments

Homework: Generally, a homework assignment will be due once each week. Expect the assignment to take about six hours to finish. Expect to have to ask for help to finish it. Make use of office hours or e-mail or make telephone calls to the professor to get help as you need it.

Projects. Some class time will be available for projects. Much of what is done there involves kinesthetic and judgmental skills in using the instrumentation well, laying out prototype circuits, and interpreting observations. Situations for each student vary tremendously depending on a multiplicity of factors. It is not efficient to rely on grading as your only feedback for learning in the classroom. Therefore, ask questions and show your results to professor De Boer as things happen. Get your feedback in real time, with no implications for your grade. The actual physical work you do in the classroom will be the foundation for a report but will not be directly graded. You should use this as an opportunity to Be Coachable.

Your project grades will depend entirely on your project reports. Write your reports in ASME or IEEE style. The reports will be graded for style, completeness, and accuracy as described in the pamphlet “How to Write a Laboratory Report” which you will be provided with.

There will be a final presentation to summarize your three project results. You will give your presentation during the final exam period. It will be graded according to a rubric which will be given to you and discussed in class a few weeks before the end of the semester.

(end of EGR 170-02 syllabus)