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## ECS 1200 Course Syllabus – The University of Texas at Dallas

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**Course:** ECS 1200 – Introduction to Engineering and Computer Science, Fall, 2011  
**Class Schedule:**     Section 005 – T-R, 1:00-2:15 PM, ECSS 2.412  
                              Section 006 – T-R, 2:30-3:45 PM, ECSS 2.311

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**Instructor:** Dr. Nathan Dodge   Tel: (972) 883-2951   email: [dodge@utdallas.edu](mailto:dodge@utdallas.edu)  
**Office:** ECSN 4.916            **Office Hours:** M, 2:00-6:00 PM and by appointment  
**Instructors Website:** <http://www.utd.edu/~dodge/>

**NOTE: I DO NOT USE WEBCT OR eLEARNING. TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT ECS 1200 YOU MUST GO TO THE WEBSITE LISTED ABOVE.**

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**Course Pre-requisite:** None.

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**Course Description:** Introduction to the Engineering and Computing professions, professional ethics. Overview of ECS curricula, connections among ECS fields and to the basics of sciences, other fields. Basic study, problem solving and other skills needed to succeed as an ECS major. Engineering design and quantitative methods. Introduction to MATLAB. Multi-disciplinary team projects designed to replicate decision processes in real-world situations.

**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:** By the end of ECS 1200, the student should have a basic knowledge of:

a. Problem solving	f. How to work with a partner/team
b. Design: creativity and invention	g. Use of Excel for charts and graphing
c. Ethical considerations	h. MatLab (introduction only)
d. Elements of project management	i. How to write a project report
e. Techniques for succeeding with homework	

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**Required Textbooks and Materials:** None.

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<b>Grading Policy:</b>	Univ 1010 requirements plus attendance (no more than FOUR [4] unexcused absences)	--	60%
	Class Notes	--	10%
	Homework problems and quizzes	--	10 %
	<u>Semester project: (includes 3 reports)</u>	--	20%
	<b>Total</b>	--	100 %

Grade ranges for ECS 1200 are: A+: 97-100; A: 93-96; A-: 90-92; B+: 87-89; B: 83-86; B-: 80-82; C+: 77-79; C: 73-76; C-: 70-72; D+: 67-69; D: 63-66; D-: 60-62; F: below 60.

**Note:** Grading policy subject to change!

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**Lecture Schedule and Major Assignments, ECS 1200, Fall, 2011**

Date	Area	Topic	Assignments	Notes/Comments
R, Aug. 25	Success as a student	Lecture 1: Introduction		Video on innovation.
T, Aug. 30		Lecture 2: Learning About Learning		
R, Sept. 1		Lecture 3: Taking Notes and Reviewing	Notes 1-2 due.	First set of notes due.
T, Sept. 6		Lecture 4: Time Management and Schedule Organization.		
R, Sept. 8		Lec. 5: Oral and Written Communication – Effective communication and why to do it!	Notes 3-4 due	Oral pres. assignments. Form class teams.
T, Sept. 13		Lec. 6: How to Approach Homework and Why		
R, Sept. 15		Quiz: Success	Notes 5-6 due	Quiz on Lectures 1-6.
T, Sept. 20	Engineering innovation	Lecture 7: Creativity and Brainstorming		Logo design assignment.
R, Sept. 22		Auto logo presentations (in class); “Big Egg” assignment		Presentation by each team (3 minutes).
T, Sept. 27		Lecture 8: Project Management		
R, Sept. 29		Lecture 9: Introduction to Design; Draft “Big Egg” Proposal due; project HW due	Notes 7-8 due	Chair design assignment.
T, Oct. 4		Chair design project presentations		5 min. presentations.
R, Oct. 6		Project proposal presentations		<b>Project proposal document also due.</b>
T, Oct. 11		Quiz: Innovation		Quiz on Lectures 7-9.
R, Oct. 13	Engineering tools	Lecture 10: Using Computers (Excel and MatLab)		
T, Oct. 18		Lecture 11: Ethics and Technology	Notes 9-10 due	
R, Oct. 20		Ethics and technology project assignments (by team). <b>Work on projects.</b>		After ethics assignments, free time on projects.
T, Oct. 25		Presentations on technology failures and relation to ethics/Project CDR.	Notes 11 due (done)	<b>Draft</b> critical design review due (report form).
R, Oct. 27		Quiz: Tools	Quiz on tools	Quiz on Lectures 10-11.
T, Nov. 1	Project planning and execution	Project in-class work		Teams work on project.
R, Nov. 3		Project in-class work		Teams work on project.
T, Nov. 8		Project critical design presentations and report	Design review	Report also due.
R, Nov. 10		Project in-class work		Teams work on project.
T, Nov. 15		Senior Project presentations by senior teams.		Presentations by teams in engineering/ CS.
R, Nov. 17		Senior Project presentations by senior teams.		
T, Nov. 22		Project in-class work		<b>Draft</b> final report due.
R, Nov. 24		Holiday		<b>Thanksgiving!!!</b>
T, Nov. 29		Project in-class work		Teams work on project.
R, Dec. 1	Project reviews	Final demos and presentations	Demos	Project final report due.
T, Dec. 6		Final demos and presentations; top two teams from each class move on to final competition	Demos	Project final report due.
R, Dec. 8		Final project “Showdown:” between class champions. <b>TI Auditorium</b>	1-3 PM, Demo Showdown!!!	<b>All students must attend this class!!!</b>
Dec. 9-14		Final Exam Days		No ECS 1200 Exams.

**Notes About Classes:**

1. You are required to take notes in class, re-write and reorganize them, and turn the rewritten notes in. They will be graded, and the grades are 10% of your course grade.
2. Semester projects presentations are on Dec. 1 and 6; final competition is on Dec.8.

## **Course & Instructor Policies:**

**Exams:** There are currently no formal exams in this course. Quizzes on lecture material are shown on the schedule.

**Homework:** Class notes are due as shown on the schedule above. Notes must be taken for each class and **rewritten neatly and accurately** before turning in on the due date shown. Homework due dates will be given as homework is assigned.

**Semester Project:** The semester project will be assigned as shown on the schedule above. Note that the project grade is a team grade, including the presentation/demo and the final report.

**Class attendance:** Class attendance is taken. Points will be deducted for habitual tardiness by your (irritated) instructor.

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### **Lab citizenship, etc.:**

Proper lab deportment for engineering students is taken for granted. When you enter class, speak quietly if you are carrying on a conversation. **MAKE SURE YOU TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE.** Do not listen to mp3 players, IPODs, etc., in class. Do NOT use your computer in class, or you will be criticized, ridiculed, and possibly have points taken off their next report or homework grade!

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### **Field Trip Policies and Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities: No off-campus activities in this course.**

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### **Student Conduct & Discipline:**

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

### **Academic Integrity:**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

### **Email Use:**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

### **Withdrawal from Class:**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

### **Student Grievance Procedures:**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy:**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

**Disability Services:**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:  
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22  
PO Box 830688  
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688  
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

**Religious Holy Days:**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.***