

School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications

Term 3, 2019 Course Outline

ELEC4123 Electrical Design Proficiency

COURSE STAFF

Course Convener:	Dr. Arash Khatamianfar, Room 313, a.khatamianfar@unsw.edu.au
Laboratory Contact:	Dr. Arash Khatamianfar, Room 313, a.khatamianfar@unsw.edu.au
Tutors:	ТВА

Consultations: You are encouraged to ask questions on the course material, after the lecture class times in the first instance, rather than via email. Lecturer consultation times will be advised during lectures. You are welcome to email the lecturer, who can answer your questions on this course and can also provide you with consultation times. ALL email enquiries should be made from your student email address with ELEC4123 in the subject line; otherwise they will not be answered. Additionally, the Course Convener will usually be available during the laboratory sessions, to help with any additional questions. Please note that consultation sessions are not a replacement for attendance at lectures. It is expected that you attend all lectures, which will often be interactive in nature, allowing questions of broad interest to be fielded by the Lecturer for the benefit of all students.

Keeping Informed: Announcements may be made during classes, via email (to your student email address) and/or online learning and teaching platforms _ in this course, we will use Moodle via https://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au/login/index.php. Please note that you will be deemed to have received this information, so you should take careful note of all announcements.

COURSE SUMMARY

Contact Hours

This course involves

- 80 hours of scheduled laboratory contact (including open labs): Two 4-hour lab sessions per week
- 1-hour lecture and/or tutorial per week

as detailed below.

Attendance at **laboratories** is **mandatory**, since these are the primary assessed components of the course. All laboratories are assessment opportunities.

Session	Day	Time	Location	
Lectures (W1 – W8)	Monday	3pm – 4pm	Ritchie Theatre (K-G19-LG02) <u>Click here for the map</u>	
Tutorials* (W8 – W10)	Monday, Thursday, and Friday	Check Your <u>Timetables</u>		
Laboratories** (W1 – W10)	Wednesday	9am – 1pm	Labs G14, 201, and 214 in EE&T Building (G17)	
	Friday	2pm – 6pm		

* Tutorials begin from Week 8 (please ignore the timetable).

** Friday labs are running every week starting from Week 1 (please ignore the timetable).

Context and Aims

This is a rather unusual course, in that there is no final or mid-term examination and most of your contact hours are spent in the laboratory. The course is organized around **4 proficiency topics**, each of which has **four/4 formal lab sessions** plus an **open lab**, each lasting **4 hours**. The **first three topics** cover the **core disciplines** of **Electronics**, **Signal Processing** and **Control Systems**, while the **fourth topic** involves an **elective** choice of two or three different projects. With some exceptions for the elective topic, <u>all formal lab sessions are assessment opportunities</u>. To accommodate the 10-week term, a second lab session has been added in a week which also helps with running an open lab for each topic.

The purpose of **lectures** is to keep the course on track and to help to **correct weaknesses** in your **understanding**. Lectures are scheduled **prior** to the formal **laboratories** of each week. Lectures in Weeks 1, 3, 6 and 7 are used in part to introduce the topic that commences in that week. Beyond this, however, lectures are intended to be **interactive**. Topics covered in these interactive lectures will be based on questions raised by students, as well as the lecturer's observation of common issues that arise during the formal laboratory sessions.

The **principle purpose** of this course is to test your **design proficiency**, through a sequence of design challenges. Some of the challenges are very basic, but there is also plenty of scope for you to demonstrate superior skills. The design challenges within each of the **core** (non-elective) **topics** are organized into **5 or 6 tasks** that can be undertaken and **assessed progressively**. Your designs, implementation and **assessment** for the **core topics** are to be undertaken on an **individual basis**, not as group work. Moreover, you are expected to regard the laboratory sessions as **miniature examinations**.

A secondary aim of the course is to fill in any major holes in your fundamental design knowledge, to ensure that all graduating students have at least a minimum level of proficiency. Although some of you might initially feel uncomfortable about this, it is important to realise that prospective employers will be very pleased indeed to know that you are able to demonstrate your proficiency. You should expect that this course will reinforce your existing knowledge and increase your confidence in design and some of the fundamental disciplines you have been studying. Opportunities to correct misunderstandings mostly occur between laboratory sessions, including within the course lectures.

A third objective of the course is to expose you to a healthy balance between teamwork and individual responsibility. For practical reasons, team-based design is restricted to the elective topic, which takes place over Weeks 8-10 and is assessed differently from the other topics. In place of the weekly lecture, you will be assigned to tutorial groups for these last three weeks of the course, with a tutor who can both help to keep you on track and also keep an eye on the functioning of your team and the level of contribution that each team member appears to be making to the design. The elective topic will involve both individual and group assessment components.

Week	Summary of Lecture Program
Week 1	Intro and guide to Topic 1
Week 2	Interactive lecture
Week 3	Interactive lecture + Intro and guide to Topic 2
Week 4	Interactive lecture
Week 5	Interactive lecture
Week 6	Interactive lecture + Intro and guide to Topic 3
Week 7	Interactive lecture + Intro to Electives (Topic 4) for task selection only
Week 8	Interactive lecture + Guide to Electives (Topic 4)
Week 9	Elective-specific tutorials (partly assessed)
Week 10	Elective-specific tutorials (partly assessed)

Indicative Lecture Schedule

Indicative Laboratory Schedule

Dariad	Summary of Laboratory Program	
Periou	Wednesday (9am-1pm)	Friday (2pm-6pm)
Week 1	Topic 1: Electronics	Topic 1: Electronics
Week 2	Topic 1: Electronics	Topic 1: Electronics (open lab)
Week 3	Topic 1: Electronics (final assessment)	Topic 2: Signal Processing
Week 4	Topic 2: Signal Processing	Topic 2: Signal Processing
Week 5	Topic 2: Signal Processing (open lab)	Topic 2: Signal Processing (final assessment)
Week 6	Topic 3: Control Systems	Topic 3: Control Systems
Week 7	Topic 3: Control Systems	Topic 3: Control Systems (open lab)
Week 8	Topic 3: Control Systems (final assessment)	Topic 4: Elective
Week 9	Topic 4: Elective	Topic 4: Elective
Week 10	Topic 4: Elective (open lab)	Topic 4: Elective (final assessment)

Assessment

The **total mark** of **each topic** is **25%** (four/4 topics in total 100%). The marks breakdown for each aspect of the topics for this course will be assigned as follows:

Assessment Concept	Basis	Marks
Core Topics: Achievement of design objectives, as demonstrated in labs	Individual	36% (3×12%)
Core Topics: Understanding of relevant subject material, as demonstrated in labs	Individual	33% (3×11%)
Core Topics: Reflective task, submitted online, core topics T1-T3	Individual	6% (3×2%)
Elective Topic: Understanding of relevant subject material and individual contribution	Individual	7%
Elective Topic: Achievement of design objectives, as demonstrated in labs	Group	10%
Elective Topic: team performance	Group	3%
Elective Topic: Team report and reflective task	Group	5%

Deadlines for Elective Topic

Elective topic selection (with optional team formation preferences): Week 7, Friday 11pm. Elective topic report due: Week 11, Wednesday 11pm.

COURSE DETAILS

Credits

This is a 6 UoC course. Since this course has **no final examination**, the workload of the course is compacted into just 10 weeks, so your effort must be adjusted accordingly. The expected average workload is 16 hours per week, which includes 8 hours of scheduled formal contact and 4 to 8 hours of independent study, design and preparation, including open labs and time spent working with peers. This is not only an expectation – it is a reality that most students undertaking this course do put in at least this amount of time!!

Relationship to Other Courses

This is a 4th year course in the School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications, which is a core component of the BE programs (Electrical and Telecommunications) offered by the School.

This course directly ties into core courses in Electronics, Signal Processing, Control, Telecommunications, Data Networks and Energy Systems which you should have already taken (typically in the third year of your program). See below for more on what is expected.

Pre-requisites and Assumed Knowledge

The course has three core topics, for which the following knowledge is assumed:

- Electronics (to the level of ELEC3106 (and partly ELEC2141 and ELEC2133)
- Signal Processing (to the level of ELEC3104)
- Control Systems (to the level of ELEC3114).

Through these and other courses, it is assumed that students have also developed good computer literacy and familiarity with MATLAB/Simulink, as well as microcontroller (Arduino in particular for Control Systems topic) which is used in some topics.

Learning outcomes

After successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- 1. Have demonstrated an ability to work both individually and within a group, to produce designs which draw upon a number of disciplines previously studied in other courses.
 - The 4 design topics and 16 formal laboratory sessions all reinforce and assess these abilities.
- 2. Have demonstrated an ability to contribute to and learn from peers.
 - The elective design topic and interactive lectures all reinforce this ability, while the tutorial sessions both reinforce and assess it.
- 3. Have demonstrated a sufficient level of understanding and skill within a range of disciplines, together with an ability to explain design decisions.
 - The assessment methodology in laboratories deliberately reinforces and assesses these outcomes.

This course is designed to provide the above learning outcomes which arise from targeted graduate capabilities listed in *Appendix A*. The targeted graduate capabilities broadly support the UNSW and Faculty of Engineering graduate capabilities (listed in *Appendix B*). This course also addresses the Engineers Australia (National Accreditation Body) Stage I competency standard as outlined in *Appendix C*.

Syllabus

The course involves three core competency components, as follows:

- Electronic Circuit Design: Devices, amplifiers, tuned circuits, op-amp circuits, etc.
- Control System Design: Feedback and stability, linear control, data acquisition and sampling, etc.
- Signal Processing Design: Filter design, frequency response, spectrum analysis, BIBO analysis, etc.

The elective component of the course involves competency components in at least one of the following areas:

• Power System Design: Transformer, motor, power electronic converter, power factor, harmonics, etc.

- Networked Communications: Computer programming, socket programming, network protocols, distributed asynchronous systems, estimation and exploitation of local and system-wide timing information, etc.
- Physical Communications: Modulation schemes, robust detection of signals in noise, multiplexing and interference suppression, efficient bandwidth utilization, error control, etc.

Laboratory assessment requires the design, construction and understanding of working solutions to specified problems.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

Delivery Mode

The teaching in this subject is heavily focused on laboratories. Each of **4 design topics** has **4 assigned laboratories**, each **4 hours** in duration, plus **an optional open lab**. The laboratories are designed to develop and assess proficiency. The majority of the assessment is individual, with a focus on objectively working solutions, in addition to understanding.

The laboratories are complemented by a mix of lectures and tutorials. For the first 3 topics, weekly lectures provide both input and an opportunity for class interaction, albeit on a large scale. In some previous incarnations of this course, small tutorials largely replaced the lecture, allowing for more interaction but leading to less uniform feedback to students, which was raised as an issue. This year, small group tutorials are used only for the final (elective) design topic, where they will be more focused on the topic selected by each group.

During the first 9 weeks of the course, lectures are intended both to address knowledge gaps and also to reinforce an approach to design, which focusses on **the need to identify early what is most problematic about a design problem**. Through this process, students are expected to be better prepared to approach the larger design problem that they will face as a team during the fourth (elective) design topic.

A very important aspect of the teaching in this course is the allocation 12 hours in total to each topic (plus an optional open lab), which allows students to attempt design tasks multiple times and to learn from their mistakes between attempts. This strategy facilitates a reflective learning cycle.

Through these mechanisms, the course aims to build and ensure proficiency in the core areas of your program of study.

Design Topics

The course is divided into a sequence of **three** "**core design topics**" and **one** "**elective design topic**," each of which is assigned **four/4** formal laboratory sessions of **4 hours** each.

The core design topics are:

- Topic 1: Electronic Circuits;
- Topic 2: Signal Processing; and
- Topic 3: Control Systems.

The elective topics are:

Topic 4a: Energy Systems; Topic 4b: Data Networks; and Topic 4c: Telecommunications.

Each of the core topics consists of a sequence of design tasks, with progressively higher complexity. Design tasks for the core topics must be completed individually, although you are encouraged to discuss the topics with your fellow students **outside the formal laboratory hours**.

The elective design is performed in **groups** of **at most 4 students**. You must **nominate** which of the **elective topics** you intend to pursue by **the end of Week 7**, at which point you will also have an opportunity to propose a design team. If you are not part of a proposed team, or if unavoidable circumstances require it, you will be assigned to a team at the Course Convener's discretion. You will be provided with further instructions on how to submit elective topic and team nominations. Unlike the first three design topics, the elective design is assessed only in

the final week, however, the progressive observation of the team performance and individual contribution to the project is carried out by the lab demonstrators helping them to better assess the teams in the final week.

Individual Learning

Preparation for labs is essential to success in this course. You should find yourself revising material from previous courses, discussing problems with your peers, raising questions in lectures, and perhaps struggling to find and solve problems you encounter with your design or implementation in the laboratory. All of these are outstanding learning opportunities.

Group Learning

You are strongly encouraged to discuss the design tasks with your classmates outside the laboratory sessions – laboratories themselves, however, are not the place for helping your friends or discussing design solutions, except during the elective topic.

The elective topic is a team effort, having larger scope and less incremental objectives than the first three design topics. To succeed in this topic, you will need to work effectively as a team member or leader. Moreover, each team is required to submit a report describing the design principles, implementation, outcomes and final reflections. The report will also need to be a team effort.

Laboratory Exemption

<u>There is no laboratory exemption for this course</u>. Regardless of whether equivalent labs have been completed in previous courses, all students enrolled in this course must take the labs. If, for medical reasons, (note that a valid medical certificate must be provided) you are unable to attend a lab, you will need to **seek permission from the course convener** to be assessed in a subsequent week.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment of core design tasks

All completed tasks for the three core design topics are to be assessed during the laboratory sessions by one of the laboratory demonstrators. Once you have completed a task, you should add your name to a list maintained by the demonstrators in your laboratory, so that you can be assessed as quickly as possible. You cannot expect to be assessed for all of the tasks you have completed during the final laboratory session of the topic, since this can place an unacceptable burden on the demonstrators' time. As a result, we devised a plan for task assessment as follows:

- First lab session: At least one task is recommended to be completed and assessed.
- For the next two lab sessions: At least **one task must** be completed and assessed, **two tasks** are **recommended** to be completed and assessed, but **no more than two tasks** will be marked.
- Open-lab session: At least one task is recommended to be completed and assessed (not compulsory).
- Final assessment lab session: No more than two tasks will be assessed. So please make sure to not leave your tasks pile up for the final lab sessions.

Important note: You must at least complete three/3 tasks from each topic with "satisfactory" grade to achieve a passing mark from that topic. The task grading system will be explained in the lecture.

Of the **25%** of the overall course assessment that is associated with each core design topic, **12%** is awarded based on **actual outcomes**. You **cannot expect** to **obtain** any of these **marks** for a **solution** which **does not actually work** or achieve the task objectives to some extent. The remaining **11%** is awarded for your **understanding** of the **design problem** and your own design. To obtain these marks, you will need to **convince** the **marker** (one of the lab demonstrators) that you **thoroughly understand** your design and why you have selected it.

Assessment is **individual**. You may not present a group design or implementation for assessment within the core design topics. You <u>MUST maintain a lab book</u> for **recording** your **observations** as your **marks** will be **written** in **your lab book** and **signed off** by the **marker**. A lab book is an A4 size notebook containing a mix of plain pages and graph sheets. You have to purchase your own lab book from any stores.

At the end of each topic, you must submit a short **reflective task** worth **2%** by answering to some questions to reflect on your work and learning gained from that topic. The submission of this task is through Moodle and the deadline is on the **Monday** of the **week after each topic** (Week4 for **Topic 1**, Week 6 for **Topic 2**, and Week 9 for

Topic 3). The mark is awarded for your **genuine effort** in providing your **reflections** on your work on each topic (there is no right or wrong answer to the question).

Assessment of the elective design tasks

The elective design topic is a group activity, for which all final assessment will take place in Week 10, but your team performance and individual contribution will be observed continuously by an allocated lab demonstrator to your group in the tutorial sessions and the labs. 25% of the overall course assessment is related to the elective topic, 19% of which is awarded by the lab demonstrators in Week 10. 6% is awarded based on an individual interview of each team member, to determine their level of understanding of both the overall design and their individual contribution to it. The other 10% is awarded based on objective performance of the final design, a component of which will be competitive, meaning that teams will be ranked within each topic, based on the objective performance of their designs.

Tutorials are important and **compulsory** for the elective design topics. There will be typically several teams within a single tutorial. Your **tutor** (who will be an allocated lad demo to your team) will ask each team to work by themselves within the tutorial room, circulating between teams to **observe** their **interaction** and **thought processes**, and to **offer suggestions where appropriate**. Your tutor will be especially interested in the way in which you approach the design problem, how you ensure that you focus on the most challenging parts of the problem first, how you reach an overall design that is likely to work, and how your team manages the resources at its disposal. Your tutor will also **observe** how **individuals contribute** to the **team's deliberations**, **design** and **interaction** during **both tutorial sessions** and in the **labs**. Based on **these observations**, the tutor will award **team performance mark** worth **3%** and your **individual contribution** with **understanding** which was mentioned in the previous paragraph (**6%**) which is a continuous assessment process.

Your team's **final report** and **reflective task** for the elective topic is an essential part of the reflective process worth **6%**. You will be expected to have a **preliminary** version of the **report** available during the laboratory assessment exercise in **Week 10**. However, the report should be finalized afterwards, including a reflection on the design process that you followed, in light of your design's performance. The report submission is **due** on **Wednesday** of **Week 11**.

	Lear	Learning outcomes		
Assessment	1	2	3	
Core design tasks	\checkmark	-	\checkmark	
Elective design topic	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	
Elective design group report	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	

Relationship of Assessment Methods to Learning Outcomes

Mid-Semester Exam and Final Exam

There is no Mid-Semester exam or Final exam in this course.

COURSE RESOURCES

Textbooks

There are no specific texts for this course, but you should consider your lecture notes and text books from earlier classes in Electronics, Signal Processing, Control, Telecommunications, Data Networks and/or Energy Systems to be useful resources.

On-line resources

Moodle

As a part of the teaching component, Moodle will be used to disseminate teaching materials, host forums and occasionally quizzes. Assessment marks will also be made available via Moodle: https://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au/login/index.php.

Mailing list

Announcements concerning course information will be given in the lectures and/or on Moodle and/or via email (which will be sent to your student email address).

OTHER MATTERS

Dates to note

Important Dates available at: https://student.unsw.edu.au/dates

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of other people's work, including the copying of assignment works and laboratory results from other students. Plagiarism is considered a form of academic misconduct, and the University has very strict rules that include some severe penalties. For UNSW policies, penalties and information to help you avoid plagiarism, see https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism. For UNSW policies, penalties and information to help you avoid plagiarism, see https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism. To find out if you understand plagiarism correctly, try this short quiz: https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism-quiz.

Student Responsibilities and Conduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to all UNSW policies (see <u>https://student.unsw.edu.au/guide</u>), and particular attention is drawn to the following:

Workload

It is expected that you will spend at least **15 hours per week** studying a 6 UoC course, from Week 1 until the final assessment, including both face-to-face classes and *independent, self-directed study*. In periods where you need to need to complete assignments or prepare for examinations, the workload may be greater. Over-commitment has been a common source of failure for many students. You should take the required workload into account when planning how to balance study with employment and other activities.

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is expected. UNSW regulations state that if students attend less than 80% of scheduled classes they may be refused final assessment.

General Conduct and Behaviour

Consideration and respect for the needs of your fellow students and teaching staff is an expectation. Conduct which unduly disrupts or interferes with a class is not acceptable and students may be asked to leave the class.

Work Health and Safety

UNSW policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others.

Special Consideration and Supplementary Examinations

You must submit all assignments and attend all examinations scheduled for your course. You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances beyond your control interfere with an assessment performance. If you need to submit an application for special consideration for an exam or assessment, you must submit the application **prior to the start** of the exam or before the assessment is submitted, except where illness or misadventure prevent you from doing so. Be aware of the "fit to sit/submit" rule which means that if you sit an exam or submit an assignment, you are declaring yourself well enough to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. For more information and how to apply, see https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration.

Continual Course Improvement

This course is under constant revision in order to improve the learning outcomes for all students. Please forward any feedback (positive or negative) on the course to the course convener or via the online student survey myExperience. You can also provide feedback to ELSOC who will raise your concerns at student focus group meetings. As a result of previous feedback obtained for this course and in our efforts to provide a rich and meaningful learning experience, we have continued to evaluate and modify our delivery and assessment methods.

New Changes: In this current version of the course, the assessment weights have been modified to make room for **reflective tasks** as both formative and summative assessment to better support the learning outcome in core topics. Also, the **qualitative grading system** has been introduced for marking to remove the stress from students and eliminate mark-driven assessment style. The mapping to numerical marks is then carried out by the course coordinator according to the rubric. Finally, an **extra 4-hour laboratory session** has been added every week to address the need for more practice time and better guidance and assessment by lab demonstrators.

Administrative Matters

On issues and procedures regarding such matters as special needs, equity and diversity, occupational health and safety, enrolment, rights, and general expectations of students, please refer to the School and UNSW policies: https://student.unsw.edu.au/guide

https://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/electrical-engineering/resources

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Targeted Graduate Capabilities

Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications programs are designed to address the following targeted capabilities which were developed by the school in conjunction with the requirements of professional and industry bodies:

- The ability to apply knowledge of basic science and fundamental technologies;
- The skills to communicate effectively, not only with engineers but also with the wider community;
- The capability to undertake challenging analysis and design problems and find optimal solutions;
- Expertise in decomposing a problem into its constituent parts, and in defining the scope of each part;
- A working knowledge of how to locate required information and use information resources to their maximum advantage;
- Proficiency in developing and implementing project plans, investigating alternative solutions, and critically evaluating differing strategies;
- An understanding of the social, cultural and global responsibilities of the professional engineer;
- The ability to work effectively as an individual or in a team;
- An understanding of professional and ethical responsibilities;
- The ability to engage in lifelong independent and reflective learning.

Appendix B: UNSW Graduate Capabilities

The course delivery methods and course content directly or indirectly addresses a number of core UNSW graduate capabilities, as follows:

- Developing rigorous analysis, critique, and reflection, and ability to apply knowledge and skills to solving problems. These will be achieved by the laboratory experiments and interactive checkpoint assessments and lab exams during the labs.
- Developing ethical practitioners who are collaborative and effective team workers, through group activities, seminars and tutorials.
- Developing independent, self-directed professionals who are enterprising, innovative, creative and responsive to change, through challenging design and project tasks.

	Program Intended Learning Outcomes	
dge Ise	PE1.1 Comprehensive, theory-based understanding of underpinning fundamentals	
	PE1.2 Conceptual understanding of underpinning maths, analysis, statistics, computing	
N B	PE1.3 In-depth understanding of specialist bodies of knowledge	~
Kne Ski	PE1.4 Discernment of knowledge development and research directions	
E1: and	PE1.5 Knowledge of engineering design practice	~
£ "	PE1.6 Understanding of scope, principles, norms, accountabilities of sustainable engineering practice	
: ring tion	PE2.1 Application of established engineering methods to complex problem solving	~
	PE2.2 Fluent application of engineering techniques, tools and resources	~
PE2 ine6 blica	PE2.3 Application of systematic engineering synthesis and design processes	~
Engi App	PE2.4 Application of systematic approaches to the conduct and management of engineering projects	~
PE3: Professional and Personal Attributes	PE3.1 Ethical conduct and professional accountability	
	PE3.2 Effective oral and written communication (professional and lay domains)	~
	PE3.3 Creative, innovative and pro-active demeanour	
	PE3.4 Professional use and management of information	
	PE3.5 Orderly management of self, and professional conduct	
	PE3.6 Effective team membership and team leadership	√

Appendix C: Engineers Australia (EA) Professional Engineer Competency Standard