EELE 203 Summer Semester FAQ

Background

It was recognized by the department that offering EELE 203 in the summer would allow a significant number of ECE students avoid a year delay in taking EELE 308 and EELE 317. EELE 308 and EELE 317 are fall-only required courses that have EELE 203 as a key prerequisite. The summer 2015 version of EELE 203 will be offered as a ten-week course, beginning on Monday, May 18th. In the past, to help reach the necessary threshold for summer EELE 203 to be offered, the course was fashioned in a hybrid format where students would only be required to be on campus a modest number of days to complete the lab portion of the course, the “lecture” portion being handled online through D2L. Having the course offered in this manner allows student to work remotely if necessary. For example, students performing summer jobs in Billings and Butte have successfully completed the course in addition to the many that have worked in Bozeman.

Based on my experience in teaching EELE 203 in this summer hybrid format, students appear do as well in EELE 203 as their previous academic record suggests and I have never had a complaint regarding too much work or the course being too difficult (or easy for that matter). In fact, I have had several students note that the ability to view a “desktop presentation” multiple times, instead of hearing it only once in a live lecture, was very helpful to them. A major concern I always have is students procrastinating. To help you know what you should be doing on a given day, at the beginning of the term I post a handout which outlines what a student should be reading, viewing and working on throughout each week.

For summer 2015, the lab portion of this course will be handled with nine meetings (each Friday of the term, save for July 3rd). Select Friday sessions will be all day – held between 9am-5pm with an hour break at noon for lunch while some lab sessions will end at noon. Course exams are to be handled during the lab sessions. The dates for the lab sessions and the final exam are:

- Friday May 22 (all day)
- Friday May 29
- Friday June 5
- Friday June 12
- Friday June 19 (all day)
- Friday June 26
- Friday July 10 (all day)
- Friday July 17
- Friday July 24 (No lab, two-hour final exam)

As noted previously, I have had students successfully complete EELE 203 over the summer who only came to campus on the scheduled days. That being said, it is helpful if you are able to be on campus to work with other students. For example, during the summer of 2014, I often saw
the same group of students working together in the computer lab on various assignments. Please keep in mind that you will need access to both PSpice and MATLAB!

**Here are a few questions I have received regarding summer EELE 203...**

- **Does 203 have the same basic set up as EELE 201 as far as amount of labs, homework, tests, lab reports? For instance, each week could we have say 2-3 homeworks due and a lab report? Also, how many labs would we be doing from 9-5 with an hour lunch break?**

Over the course of the summer session you can expect approximately fifteen homework assignments from the Dorf and Svoboda text we use in circuits 1. I will NOT collect these assignments, they are for practice alone and will not form a portion of your grade. Another seven or eight assignments will be what I call “Discussion Board” assignments that I will create. These will be collected and graded. We will have three hour-long exams plus a two-hour final. We will have approximately ten labs over the course of the summer. During the all-day lab sessions, you will likely have two lab exercises to complete. Since we are not constrained to a 2-hour lab period, the lab can be somewhat longer than what you see in EELE 201. That being said, most students finish an hour or so early on the all-day sessions. Nearly all the lab exercises having reporting requirements. We will also have six online quizzes, one for each chapter we study. I try to spread the work out evenly over the summer so that you can develop a consistent work schedule.

- **If we have questions over course material, would we e-mail back and forth or would we bring them to lab day or would you have an office time to come in?**

All of the above! While I will be in the office just about every day, I will be working on a variety of projects and do not plan to have set office hours. If you would like to meet, simply send an email through D2L and we can set up an appointment to meet likely either that day or the next.

- **In your experience, is this summer class better suited to people who didn’t do well after taking it over a full semester or do you think people who have never taken 203 before do well too?**

There have only been a couple of students taking the summer EELE 203 who have already tried the full-semester version; the course is delivered as if the student has NOT taken EELE 203 before.

- **Will we be able to come in on other days to work on labs if we are not able to finish the labs on the days listed?**

You should be able to gain access to the lab just about any weekday – simply obtain the key code to the lab from the main office. That being said, I strongly believe that you will be able to finish the labs on the days listed. Furthermore, in many cases you will be required to
demonstrate the circuit to me in person. Therefore, if you do not happen to finish lab on a given day, you will be required to set up an appointment to demonstrate operation of the circuit and gain my signature.

• Is there going to be a class size limitation?

If more students enroll than will fit in the Circuits lab (COBH 602), I anticipate that the overflow will complete the lab assignments in the Electronics lab (COBH 620). Therefore, I do not anticipate a maximum class size limit. If insufficient students enroll, I suppose the course could be cancelled. That is something over which I have no control.

• The lab classes will be 9-5 with an hour break at noon, correct?

Only select lab sessions will be 9-5 (see schedule above). If you don’t need a lunch break then you are free to work the noon hour. I do plan to take the lunch break.

• Am I correct in saying that attendance is only required on Fridays?

Yes, you are only required to attend on the scheduled days; I have arranged them all to be Fridays.

• Roughly how much time would you estimate/recommend be spent on the class daily through D2L?

The summer offering of EELE 203 is somewhat condensed in that we only have ten weeks instead of the typical fifteen, and I recommend that a student spend at least 16 hours per week on the course outside of the required lab sessions reading, working on assignments and preparing for lab. While I have had a couple of students take both EELE 203 and a math course over the summer and live to tell the tale, that’s asking a lot of yourself. In terms of how you divide your hours, I leave that up to you but recommend that you develop a set schedule and stay caught up. In terms of time specifically on D2L... I will never ask that you spend more time than say 40 minutes of a given day viewing presentations. I don’t capture full lectures as presentations; they come in approximately 5-20 minute snapshots. I do not recommend leaving all the course work for one or two intense days a week. Rather, make a habit to check into the D2L site at least every other day and devote a good portion of three or four days a week to work on EELE 203 outside of lab.

• How will homework and labs be submitted? Will they be scanned and emailed, or will they be typed up in Word and submitted?

Homework assignments and lab write-ups are to be uploaded via the corresponding D2L dropbox as single-file pdfs. Lab reports are to be typed.