Physics 171
Introductory Projects in Physics
Fall 2015

Instructor:  Dr. Andrew B. Croll
Room 212b, South Engineering
1211 Albrecht Blvd
Fargo, ND 58108-6050
Andrew.croll@ndsu.edu
Office Hours:  Mondays 9:00 to 11:00 and 12:00 to 3:00

Description: Basic computer controlled instrumentation for automation and data acquisition. Design of simple measurement and control projects covering waveforms, temperature measurement and robotics. Elementary data analysis: curve fitting, Fourier theory and statistics.

Course Objectives: After completing this course, students will be able to interface and control instrumentation using computer software; students will be able to acquire data from instruments, plot the data, and apply curve fits to the data; and students will be able to build and operate simple instruments.

Objectives are met by group-oriented project based learning schemes. Students will be evaluated through their physical progress towards a particular goal, and through the presentation (oral) of their particular solution to each problem and the robustness of the physical outcome (how well conceived is their solution).

Prerequisites: None.

Credits: 1

Class:  W 3:00 - 5:00 - NDSU South Engineering, Rm 221. According to NDSU Policy 333, attendance in classes is expected and will be counted toward your overall grade as described below.

Required Course Materials:
(1) Student Version Software (optional)
(2) Software Manual (optional)
(3) Lab Manual (Provided by Department)

Evaluation:
Introductory Concepts  15%
Projects 1  35%
Projects 2  35%
Participation  15%

Grading:
85%  -  100%  A,
70%  -  85%  B,
60%  -  70%  C,
50%  -  60%  D,
0%  -  50%  F.
**Introductory Concept Mark:**
2 – Group Achieves Project Goal  
1 – Group Has Made Progress Towards Project Goal  
0 – Group Has Made No Significant Progress

**Project Mark:**
5 – Chalk Talk: Group must demonstrate the outcome of their project, and demonstrate an understanding of structural and software design.  
10 – Report: A 2 Page (double spaced) report from each individual in a group. The report is a written description of the project, intended to instruct a peer in its purpose, construction and operation.

**Participation Mark:**
2 – Student attends and contributes to group  
1 – Student attends  
0 – Student is not present

**Make-up Policy:** There is no option for make-ups. Participation marks will be forgiven in the case of legitimate absence.

**Academic Honesty:** The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. NDSU Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct applies to cases in which cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct have occurred in an instructional context. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are subject to penalties, up to and possibly including suspension and/or expulsion. Student academic misconduct records are maintained by the Office of Registration and Records. Informational resources about academic honesty for students and instructional staff members can be found at [www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty](http://www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty).

**AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS STATEMENT**
Any students with disabilities or other special needs, who need special accommodations in this course are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor and contact the Disability Services Office as soon as possible. Assistance is also available from Disability Services in 212 Ceres Hall (231-8463). [http://www.ndsu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.ndsu.edu/disabilityservices/)

**Course Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Software</td>
<td>Plotting a function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Introduction to circuits</td>
<td>Assembly of LED circuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Powering a circuit with software</td>
<td>Flashing LED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Measuring DC Voltage with Software</td>
<td>Thermometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Measuring Real Data</td>
<td>Plotting the Noise Spectrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Simple Amplification</td>
<td>Making a Noisy Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Op Amps</td>
<td>Make an Integrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Project 1</td>
<td>Participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Project 1</td>
<td>Participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Project 1</td>
<td>Participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Project 1</td>
<td>Chalk Talk Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Project 2</td>
<td>Project 1 Report. Participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Project 2</td>
<td>Participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Project 2</td>
<td>Participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Project 2</td>
<td>Chalk Talk Presentations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Extra Credit Day</td>
<td>Project 2 Report. Extra credit (improving, fixing, finishing project 1 or 2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>