

# EECS 316

M. J. Roberts

Spring 2011

# General Information

- Office - 302 Ferris Hall
- E-mail - [mjr@utk.edu](mailto:mjr@utk.edu)
- Office Phone - 974-5430
- Text - Signals and Systems by M. J. Roberts
- Course Topics - Fourier Methods  
Applications, Sampling, The Discrete  
Fourier Transform, Laplace Transforms,  $z$   
Transforms, Feedback and Filter Analysis  
and Design
- Prerequisite - ECE 315

# Class Attendance

- Registering for a class implies that the student understands when it meets and when the final exam is and plans to attend all of them
- Each student is responsible for knowing any information transmitted in every class whether or not he/she attends
- The final examination is 2:45-4:45PM, Tuesday, May 10, 2011. Plan now to be there.

# Absence From Class

- Every student is expected to attend every class
- In case of unforeseen events if the student misses a test he/she may be excused upon presentation, in writing, of an acceptable excuse
- Acceptable excuses include death of a close family member or illness of the student

# Makeup Tests

- In giving a make-up test an instructor can give the same test or a different one and can give it before or after the scheduled time
- If he gives the same test the possibility exists of one or more students being told in advance of the test content thereby giving them an unfair advantage
- If he gives a different test it can never be exactly equivalent to the test given to the rest of the class

# Tests

- There will be three 50-minute tests plus the final examination.
- The UT Catalog makes no statements concerning make-up tests. Therefore each instructor is free to establish his/her own policy. All make-up tests will be given on 4/29/2011 during the normal class time.

# Test Formats

- Do not expect to see problems on the test just like the homework problems
- Problems on a test must be done within a time limit and, therefore, take a somewhat different form
- Test questions may be true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-blank, find a solution or sketch a graph

# Test Formats

Often on tests the phrase, “numerical value” will appear. It means a number, not an expression that can be reduced to a number.

For example  $3 + j7$  is a number but  $1 - e^{j\pi}$  is not because  $1 - e^{j\pi}$  can be reduced to the number 2. This is done to insure that all students finish problems to the same level of completion so their work can be fairly compared.



# Test Grading

- Each test grade is based on what a student actually writes down, not what he/she later claims he/she knew but did not write down
- Test grades may be appealed within one week of their return
- All appeals, no matter how apparently obvious, must be in writing and must be based on a logical argument. It is not unusual to have several students who feel they were unfairly graded come to the instructor after class, all seeking instant relief. Fair consideration of these appeals requires time to study them.

# Course Grades

- The course grade will be weighted 40% on test scores, 30% on the final exam, 20% on project scores and 10% on homework scores. Late projects and homework will be penalized
- Course grades are based on a student's level of performance, not on his/her level of effort
- New grade histograms and preliminary letter-grade ranges will appear on the web after each test or project is graded

# Course Grades

- The overall course grade average is a weighted average of the grades on tests, homework, projects and the final examination, expressed as a percentage (0 --> 100)
- The test average is computed by converting all test scores into percentages and then averaging those percentages
- The homework average is computed by dividing the total number of points earned by the total possible points on all homework assignments and converting that to a percentage
- The project average is computed the same way as the test average

# Course Grades

- Course grades should reflect performance of the students relative to the other students in the class, and in previous similar classes
- To make a rough estimate of your probable course grade look at the distribution of average grades (which will be available on the [www.ece.utk.edu/~roberts](http://www.ece.utk.edu/~roberts) site) and your position in it

# Course Grades

- Sometimes near the end of a semester a student whose projected grade is low will ask to do extra work to improve his/her grade.
- A professor cannot be in the position of favoring one student over another, so if he offers this opportunity to one student, he must offer it to all of them.
- I will not make such an offer.
- Grades will be based on the tests, projects, homework and final exam and nothing else.
- So a good strategy is to realize earlier that your grade may be low and do the extra work on the remaining assignments and tests.

# Course Grades

For students majoring in Electrical Engineering or Computer Engineering there is a requirement that all courses in the student's major be completed with a grade of C or better. A grade of C- is not acceptable.

# Incompletes

- The grade, incomplete, is intended to be assigned in cases in which the student has completed the preponderance of the course and has a passing grade in the work done
- Incompletes are not given to allow the student to avoid a bad grade

# Withdrawal

- Withdrawal before the drop deadline has the same effect as not having taken the class at all
- Withdrawal after the drop deadline requires the instructor to assign either a WP or WF grade based on the student's relative class standing at the time he/she drops the course



# ACADEMIC STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

## The Honor Statement (from Hilltopics)

An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.

# Academic Integrity

## **Cheating**

First Offense	Grade of zero on that assignment.
Second Offense	F in the course.

All cheating incidents are reported to the college administrators. On any cheating incident there is always a possibility, based on the students overall record, of being dropped from all courses and denied future admission to the University.

Every student has a right of appeal on any accusation of cheating. See Hilltopics for details.

# Questions

- In class - Questions are very important and, when asked in class, allow all students to hear the answer
- Outside of class - Questions are also important and some individual attention may be given to the student to help him/her over a hurdle
- Statistically, the students who ask the most questions generally (but not always) receive the highest grades

# Classroom Discipline

- The overriding principle is that students should not create distractions for fellow students or the instructor during class time
- Turn off cell phones and pagers
- Come on time to avoid distracting others with your late arrival
- When the instructor begins class, conversations among students should cease immediately

# Weather

- If UT is closed, class will not meet
- If Knox county or city schools are closed and a test is scheduled, the test is automatically rescheduled for the next class meeting

# Office Hours

- MWF 10-11:15AM
- Other times by appointment

# International Students

- Occasionally there are some communication difficulties with international students because of the language issue
- Some names of international students are unfamiliar to an American instructor's ear and may not be pronounced correctly

# Resources at [www.ece.utk.edu/~roberts](http://www.ece.utk.edu/~roberts)

- This presentation
- All homework assignments
- All presentation slides
- Test solutions
- Weekly summaries of grade distributions
- Project descriptions



# Frequent Questions or Comments and Responses

- Question I missed the last class. Did you go over anything important?
- Answer If I didn't think it was important I wouldn't go over it.
- Comment I know I made a bad grade but I really do understand the material.
- Response No you don't. If you really understood, the grade would have been better. (I know students often sincerely feel like they understand the material but this is sometimes an illusion.)

# Frequent Questions or Comments and Responses

- **Comment** My course grade is lower than it should be. I really worked hard in this class.
- **Response** Your course grade reflects your performance. I can't grade your effort.
- **Question** Will you curve the grades?
- **Answer** An estimate of the distribution of letter grades will be put on the web after each test or project is graded.

# Frequent Questions or Comments and Responses

- Comment The test was too hard.
- Response Several people made perfect, or near perfect, scores. If they did, so can you.
- Comment Some of the problems on the test were not the same as we had in the homework.
- Response I never intended that they should be. If you did the homework and actually understood the concepts involved, the problems were well within your capability.

# Frequent Questions or Comments and Responses

- Question     How many problems will there be on the test?
- Answer       Avogadro's number.
  
- Question     My hard disk crashed. OR The computer network was down on campus. Can I have extra time to complete the project?
- Answer       No. I expect you to begin the project early enough and plan for such problems so that, even when they occur, you can still submit your project report on time.

# Frequent Questions or Comments and Responses

- Comment I cannot get all my work done because
  1. I have a full-time job
  2. I have a wife (or husband) and children
  3. I am taking 19 hours of course work
  4. My teenage daughter (or son) is driving me crazy
  5. I have had to miss some classes because of traveling with the band to football games
  6. I am an officer in a campus organization that takes up a lot of my time
  7. I have a project due (or a test) in another course
- Answer Everyone has other obligations and demands on his/her time. You have chosen yours and must make the best of your situation.

# Frequent Questions or Comments and Responses

- Comment I cannot get all my work done because
  1. My parent or grandparent or brother or sister or dog died,
  - or 2. My parents are getting divorced,
  - or 3. I just broke up with my fiance, and I am emotionally upset.
- Response Anyone would be upset at the loss of a family member or the termination of an important relationship. But that happens to everyone occasionally and each of us must all cope with it in his/her own way. If the grief is too powerful to let you concentrate you should withdraw from all courses and come back when you have recovered.
  
- Comment I have been sick or had an injury and cannot get all my work done.
- Response If your sickness or injury is that serious you should withdraw from all your courses for health reasons, recover your health and then return to the university to resume your courses.