

**ELEC 4601 [0.5 credit]**  
**Microprocessor Systems**

**Course Description:**

Interfacing aspects in microprocessor systems. Microprocessors and bus structures, internal architecture, instruction set and pin functions. Memory interfacing, input-output, interrupts, direct memory accesses, special processors and multiprocessor systems.

Precludes additional credit for **SYSC 3601** and **CMP 3006**.

Prerequisite: **ELEC 2607** and one of **SYSC 2003** or **SYSC 3003** or **SYSC 3006**.

**Specific Goals - Student Learning Objectives**

Microprocessor systems are used in all aspects of modern life such as home appliances, communication systems, automotive systems, medical devices, wearable devices, and industrial automation. This course establishes solid conceptual background that enables students to design, develop, test, debug, and analyze different microprocessor systems ranging from the conventional x86 processors to microcontrollers/embedded processors. The learning outcomes of this course can be briefed as follows<sup>1</sup>:

1. Microprocessor System Architecture
  - Describing basic building blocks of a microprocessor system (Knowledge outcome)
  - Explaining the architectures of microprocessor systems (Knowledge outcome)
  - Explaining instruction sets and instruction groups (Knowledge outcome)
  - Explaining basic instruction execution cycle and timing (Knowledge outcome)
  - Understanding of advanced computing schemes such as pipelining (Knowledge outcome)
  - Distinguish the merits/limitations of RISC and CISC architectures (Knowledge outcome)
2. Bus and Clocks
  - Defining the role of clocks in synchronizing instructions operations (Knowledge outcome)
  - Defining the function and types of buses (Knowledge outcome)
  - Drawing a bus timing diagram for common I/O operations (Skills outcome)
  - Calculating critical timing parameters of common I/O operations (Skills outcome)
  - Listing potential timing errors/hazards associated with I/O operations (Skills outcome)
3. Input/output
  - Describing different types of interfacing (serial/parallel) (Knowledge outcome)
  - Describing and implementing I/O devices handling mechanisms (Skills outcome)
  - Describing interrupts and implementing interrupts service routines (Skills outcome)
4. Memory
  - Describing different types and usages of memory (Knowledge outcome)
  - Explaining addressing modes (Knowledge outcome)
  - Describing memory allocation mechanisms (Knowledge outcome)
5. Software and Programming
  - Understanding how program instructions are executed (Knowledge outcome)
  - Tracing the execution of assembly code programs (Skills outcome)

---

<sup>1</sup>These learning outcomes were originally formulated by Prof. Atia, (2018) and Prof. MacEachern continued with these goals (2019–2021).

- Diagnosing and correcting (debug) programming errors (Skills outcome)

#### 6. Microcontrollers

- Applying the taught concepts to microcontrollers (Knowledge outcome)
- Describing ARM microprocessor architecture/programming model (Knowledge outcome)
- Developing programs (in assembler/C) for microcontrollers systems (Skills outcome)
- Utilizing microcontroller timers/peripherals to interface with sensors (Skills outcome)
- Explaining and using microcontrollers Analog to Digital conversion (Knowledge/Skills)
- Explaining multi-core microprocessor systems and architectures (Knowledge outcome)
- Understating parallel and distributed processing mechanisms (Knowledge outcome)
- Implementing networked microprocessor systems (Knowledge and skills outcome)

#### Lecture Plan:

A draft of the lecture plan is given below. I will make materials available to the class on Brightspace. The flow of the course will be as below, with some variation depending on interests and circumstances. Topic 22 will be offered if time permits.

| Week                                        | Lecture Topics (will adjust as needed and time permits)                                           | Related Lab & Quiz         |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Week 1:</b><br>Lecture: Sept 10          | Overview of the course.<br>Microprocessors – Part 1<br>Introduction to basic architecture and ISA |                            |
| <b>Week 2:</b><br>Lectures: Sept 15 & 17    | Microprocessors – Part 2<br>Embedded programming                                                  |                            |
| <b>Week 3:</b><br>Lecture: Sept 22 & 24     | Microprocessors – Part 3<br>Assembly language                                                     | Lab 1:<br>Sept 21, 23, 25  |
| <b>Week 4:</b><br>Lectures: Sept 23 & 25    | Microprocessors – Part 4<br>Advanced concepts                                                     |                            |
| <b>Week 5:</b><br>Lectures: Sept 29 & Oct 1 | Memory types and organization                                                                     | Lab 2:<br>Oct 5, 7, & 9    |
| <b>Week 6:</b><br>Lectures: Oct 6 & 8       | Memory types and organization                                                                     |                            |
| <b>Week 7:</b><br>Lecture: Oct 13 & 15      | Interfacing and peripherals – Part 1:<br>Interrupts                                               | Lab 3:<br>Oct 19, 21, & 23 |
| <b>Week 9:</b><br>Lectures: Oct 20 & 22     | Interfacing and peripherals – Part 2:<br>Bus protocols                                            |                            |
| <b>Week 9: (Oct 26–30)</b>                  | <b>BREAK</b>                                                                                      |                            |
| <b>Week 10:</b><br>Lecture: Nov 3 & 5       | Interfacing and peripherals – Part 3:<br>Bus protocols                                            | Lab 4:<br>Nov 2, 4, & 6    |
| <b>Week 11:</b><br>Lecture: Nov 10 & 12     | Interfacing and peripherals – Part 4:<br>Non digital world                                        |                            |
| <b>Week 12:</b><br>Lecture: Nov 17 & 19     | Design and Test<br>New emerging topics                                                            | Lab 5:<br>Nov 16, 18, & 20 |
| <b>Week 13:</b><br>Lecture: Nov 24 & 27     | New emerging topics                                                                               |                            |
| <b>Week 14:</b><br>Lecture: Dec 1 & 3       | Exam topics overview                                                                              |                            |

## Resources

- Course Brightspace site
- Ünsalan, Cem, Hüseyin Deniz Gürhan, and Mehmet Erkin Yücel. *Embedded System Design with ARM Cortex-M Microcontrollers*. Springer International Publishing, 2022.
- Beuchat, René, Florian Depraz, Andrea Guerrieri, and Sahand Kashani. *Fundamentals of system-on-chip design on arm cortex-M microcontrollers*. Arm Education Media, 2021.
- Haris, D., and S. Haris. "Digital Design and Computer Architecture ARM Edition." (2016).
- Noviello, Carmine. "Mastering stm32." (2022).

The course grade will be evaluated as follows:

| Method of Evaluation         | % of Final Grade | Due Dates*   |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Lab Assignments              | 25               | lab days     |
| Midterm Exam<br>(Individual) | 25               | After week 6 |
| Final Exam<br>(Individual)   | 50               | TBA          |

## Notes:

- The exams are for evaluation purposes only and will not be returned to the student.
- Health and Safety: See <https://carleton.ca/ehs/programs/working-lab/laboratory-health-and-safety/> for general guidelines.

## Satisfactory term work

- In order to pass the course students must achieve *satisfactory performance* during the term.
- Satisfactory performance during the term requires completion of all lab experiments with a combined average grade of >30% on lab reports.
- The final exam must be completed with a minimum grade of 40% to pass the course.

**Instructor information**

- Name: Mahya Shahmohammadimehrjardi
- Office: Mackenzie Building 4250
- Office Hours: 2:35 PM–3:35 PM Tuesday and Thursday
- Email: [mahyashahmohammadim@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:mahyashahmohammadim@cunet.carleton.ca)

**Teaching Assistant (TA) information**

|   | Name          | Email                                                                              | Office Hours<br>(by appointment) |
|---|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | James Botte   | <a href="mailto:jamesbotte@cmail.carleton.ca">jamesbotte@cmail.carleton.ca</a>     |                                  |
| 2 | Morgan Smilde | <a href="mailto:morgansmilde@cmail.carleton.ca">morgansmilde@cmail.carleton.ca</a> |                                  |
| 3 | Tahir Towsif  | <a href="mailto:tahirtowsif@cmail.carleton.ca">tahirtowsif@cmail.carleton.ca</a>   |                                  |

**Class and lab information**

- Class Location: **Loeb Building C264**
- Class Time: **1:05 PM–2:25 PM Tuesday and Thursday**
- Lab Location: **Mackenzie Building 4135**
- Lab Time: refer to your schedule
- Pre-requisites, from the current Carleton University Undergraduate Calendars (<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/courses/ELEC/>).

## General Regulations

- **Copyright on Course Materials:** The materials created for this course (including the course outline and any slides, notes, program source code, labs, projects, assignments, quizzes, exams and solutions) are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed or posted on any website without prior written permission from the author(s).
- **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all lectures and lab periods. The University requires students to have a conflict-free timetable. For more information, see the current Undergraduate Calendar, Academic Regulations of the University, Section 1.2, Course Selection and Registration and Section 1.5, Deregistration.
- **Health and Safety:** Every student should have a copy of our Health and Safety Manual. A PDF copy of this manual is available online: <http://sce.carleton.ca/courses/health-and-safety.pdf>.
- **Deferred Term Work:** Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and in all cases, this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due. The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. For more information, see the current Undergraduate Calendar, Academic Regulations of the University, Section 2.6, Deferred Term Work. Since students are required to have a stable and reliable internet connection, a poor internet connection will not be considered a sufficient reason to defer an online exam.
- **Appeal of Grades:** The processes for dealing with questions or concerns regarding grades assigned during the term and final grades is described in the Undergraduate Calendar, Academic Regulations of the University, Section 2.7, Informal Appeal of Grade and Section 2.8, Formal Appeal of Grade.
- **Academic Integrity:** Students should be aware of their obligations with regards to academic integrity. Please review the information about academic integrity at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>. This site also contains a link to the complete Academic Integrity Policy that was approved by the University's Senate.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism (copying and handing in for credit someone else's work) is a serious instructional offense that will not be tolerated.
- **Academic Accommodation:** You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www.carleton.ca/equity/>

## **Intellectual Property**

Lectures and course materials prepared by the instructor are considered to be an instructor's intellectual property covered by the Copyright Act, RSC 1985, c C-42. These materials are made available to you for your own study purposes and cannot be shared outside of the class or "published" in any way. Lectures, whether in person or online, cannot be recorded without the instructor's permission. Posting course materials or any recordings you may make to other websites without the express permission of the instructor may constitute copyright infringement.

## **Classroom Conduct**

- > The classroom environment is premised on commitment to the following:
  - Professionalism
  - Respect
  - Honesty
  - Privacy
- > In the context of online/in-person learning, students are expected to:
  - Represent themselves honestly in all communications, applications, assignments, tests, examinations, and other correspondence.
  - Respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning in an online setting.
  - Be courteous and polite in all electronic exchanges with instructor and fellow classmates.
  - Be active and engaged participants in the learning process.
  - Respect the personal information and privacy of others.
  - Respect all copyright laws.
- > While participating in this online/in-person course, students are encouraged to engage in appropriate behaviors. Inappropriate behaviors may include:
  - Using email or login account information that is not your own.
  - Engaging in any behavior that may be disruptive to other learners in the online learning environment.
  - Writing, using, sending, downloading, or displaying any information that is hostile, insulting to others, derogatory, obscene, harassing, threatening or otherwise offensive.
  - Reproducing course content or reposting course materials without explicit permission.