

Engineering 1630 – Digital System Design Fall Semester AY 2014-15

Professor: Prof. Wm. R. Patterson
Office - B. H. 449, ext 3-1449.
William_Patterson@brown.edu

Office hours: I do not schedule regular office hours. Instead I am prepared to answer questions or deal with problems as they arise. I am available at any time you can find me in Barus & Holley (or *Au Bon Pain*). A list of my haunts and the phone numbers thereof is posted on my office door. If it is inconvenient to see you then, I will tell you so and arrange an alternate time. Otherwise, feel free to take advantage of my availability – the offer is genuine. I am especially available after class and am willing to make appointments either after class or by email, at least for a day or two ahead.

Course Goals: This course presents a broad range of techniques useful for digital logic design. Students completing ENGN1630 should

1. Be able to design combinational and sequential logic for a wide range of systems, including making appropriate allowances for timing constraints.
2. Be able to understand CMOS transistors and their use in logic circuits well enough to do timing, power, and load calculations, to use bidirectional buses properly, and to be prepared to study VLSI systems.
3. Be able to realize a logic design in an appropriate choice of discrete logic, a CPLD or an FPGA.
4. Be able to use CAD tools for schematic capture, logic simulation, and programmable design, and to understand the role and advantages of hardware description languages in design, particularly Verilog.
5. Be able to make use of memory and simple processors and to understand the idea of a register transfer machine.

Teaching Assistants: There are two graduate students, Jaime Jimenez and Michael-Patrick English, who will share the graduate TA duties. Both were undergraduates at Brown last year and are pursuing Masters degrees. They know the territory, but I am still trying to think through how to divide the job between them. I am looking for several seniors who took the course last year to be TAs. Overall we should have 25 – 30 hours of lab staffing per week. We will post the hours, names, and schedules of all the TAs on the class web site shortly.

Laboratory Space: The lab will be in the Hewlett Electronics Lab on the first floor of Giancarlo – Room 196. The computers in Room 196 were to have been updated with the latest software from Mentor Graphics, Xilinx, and Aldec but that effort is on hold. The current software should be fine for most or all of this course.

Laboratory Hours: Hours will start on Thursday, Sept. 11th – if all goes well. The exact hours when TAs will be available are still to be determined as I get them lined up. The website will show TA hours as soon as they are settled. Eventually we will have the lab itself open 20 hours a day during the week and much of the weekend but there will only be TA coverage for about 35 hours.

Laboratory Grade: This is primarily a lab course so some 63% of the grade will depend on the Labs you do. There will be a mid-semester and a final exam. Full details are in the “*Evaluation*” section of the introduction to the lab manual.

Lab Manual and Kit: The lab manual and kit will be available together for a fee of \$ 60. (I am still editing the manual so it will be another few days.) You can pick them up from Mr. Arpie Kauloustian, the technician who handles electrical engineering lab support, in B&H room 325. There will be a rebate of \$ 50 through the Controller's Office after the end of the semester if you return the major parts of the kit. The difference is a photocopying cost, which is a regrettable necessity.

I am not making many changes to the manual this year. I continue to hope that I will introduce a new lab D on the design of a very small, very peculiar microprocessor. As usual when making changes, there will be some errors in the lab manual. Please let me know if something there does not make sense. I am still editing the manual and it is unlikely to get done this week. Last year's lab manual is on-line at the class web site and can be used until I get the new one printed.

Textbook: The suggested **OPTIONAL** textbook is William J. Dally and R. Curtis Harting, *Digital Design, A Systems Approach*, Cambridge University Press 2012. This is a new book for me and I am not entirely comfortable with the choice. I do not follow a textbook very closely so this is an optional purchase for you. The lectures and the lab manual may be enough to get you through the course. The previous book for the course was John F. Wakerly, *Digital Design: Principles and Practices, 4th Ed.*, Pearson Higher Ed Inc. I prefer that book but it has become outrageously expensive (\$ 220) and is showing its age. It is noteworthy for its coverage of both VHDL and Verilog and for a graceful writing style. Its main problem is that some material is getting obsolete.

High-Tech: There is a website for the course accessible through the University's web pages at <http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Engineering/Courses/En163/home.html>. It will have schedules, lab changes, TA access information, etc. I am working on updating the site now.

Topics:

1. Boolean algebra, logic minimization, SOP and POS forms, K-maps
2. MOSFETs, static logic circuits, noise margins, signal levels, open-drain and three state circuits, flip-flops
3. Sequential circuits and finite state machines with counters as special cases
4. Floating gate devices and their use to build CPLDs and nonvolatile memory
5. Logic programming in Verilog hardware description language as used to synthesize simple circuits
6. CAD for schematic capture and programmable device programming
7. Semiconductor memory: SRAM, DRAM, ROM – asynchronous and synchronous
8. Field Programmable Gate Arrays (Xilinx examples) for logic implementation

9. Arithmetic: adders, fast carry methods, simple multiply, number representation (2's complement integers, offset binary, IEEE 754 floating point standard)
10. Register transfer machines and very simple models of computer structure.

Collaboration: The lab manual has a statement on my collaboration policy, some of which I repeat here to emphasize what I expect. Generally:

1. You may collaborate on labs by discussing them with your classmates and to some extent with the TAs. The TAs are supposed to give hints or debug suggestions but not to tell you how to do the lab. Please don't push them to exceed these bounds. In giving or taking advice this way, it is important to be sure you understand the problem and its solution. You may get stumped when questioned by a TA and end up losing credit for the lab if you prove clueless about how it is supposed to work
2. In all design labs, you must build, debug and demonstrate the system on your own boards yourself – your own fingers, parts, documentation, etc. TAs will check board numbers and have the right to ask for documentation, that is, the schematic or outline material that you used to guide assembly. This includes data entry for any Verilog code. Type it yourself not copying someone else's file. Offering someone else's work for this is NOT allowed.
3. For the written reports for labs 2, 6, and 9 or schematic capture, you must take the data and write the report yourself. There is a requirement that a TA certify that he/she saw you take the data or demonstrate the results of lab 9. **I take a particularly harsh view of copying data or even two people taking data together and using copies** for their reports. Data is a certification that you did the measurements, and right or wrong this is what you got. Science and engineering depend on the reliability of that sort of certification for progress. Mistakes in data are normal but fakes or copies are strictly forbidden. In the “real” world the penalty for plagiarism is often ostracism. Consider:
<http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/science/2014/08/05/author-retracted-stem-cell-papers-commits-suicide/PjUPxOBh3k2qnGPIzQMwHL/story.html>
4. If in a written report you choose to copy some picture or text to explain your work, you **must explicitly attribute that material to its source** with a footnote, not just a bibliography. You cannot copy from Wikipedia and paste into the report and expect us not to notice. I recommend writing reports yourself and generating the pictures too – you learn more that way.