 DEFINITION

Mechatronics is the synergistic combination of mechanical engineering (“mecha” for mechanisms), electronic engineering (“tronics” for electronics), and software engineering. The purpose of this interdisciplinary engineering field is the study of automata from an engineering perspective and serves the purposes of controlling advanced hybrid-systems such as production systems, synergy-drives, planetary-rovers, automotive subsystems such as anti-block system, spin-assist and every day equipment such as autofocus cameras, video, hard disks, cd-players, washing machines, lego-matics etc.

Mechatronics is centred on mechanics, electronics and computing which, combined, make possible the generation of simpler, more economical, reliable and versatile systems.

The word “mechatronics” was first coined by Mr. Tetsuro Moria, a senior engineer of a Japanese company, Yaskawa, in 1969. Mechatronics may alternatively be referred to as “electromechanical systems.”

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TEXTBOOKS (ALSO IN THE LIBRARY ON RESERVE):


GRADING

This course is based on a combination of the lab and class. They go together and are indivisible (they are divided only because that is how things are done here, ideally it would be just one class). If you cannot complete the lab, you cannot complete the course. You will receive the same grade on the course and the lab, and cannot pass one without passing the other. This is essentially a hands-on project class, and the grading reflects this status.

| COURSE:                | 67%   | Labs and Projects |
|                       | 33%   | Homworks, Quizzes, and Exams |
| HOMEWORKS,            | 20%   | Midterm, 4/26-4/29, Take Home |
| QUIZZES, EXAMS        | 10%   | Quizzes |
|                       | 3%    | Homworks |
| LABS AND PROJECT      | 8%    | Lab 0 |
|                       | 8%    | Lab 1 |
|                       | 8%    | Lab 2 |
|                       | 8%    | Lab 3 |
|                       | 35%   | Project |

Note: there is a sure fire quick and easy way to fail this class—that is to end the quarter without cleaning up your lab area and returning the microcontroller and daughter boards back to the TA’s or the instructor.

WWW SITE, VIDEOS, AND WEBFORUM

Website: www.soe.ucsc.edu/classes/cmpe118/Winter07

Check this site often as this is where the homework assignments, lecture notes, labs, homework and test solutions, and lecture videos are posted. You are expected to read the material on the website.

Videos: As an experiment in teaching technology, the instructor will be capturing both the audio and screen from the course in real-time. This will later be posted to the website. While every attempt will be made to capture the classes, as this is a new technology, there are no guarantees. Also, while watching the video should be a great way to review course material, if you are not in class you cannot ask questions and/or clarifications. Further, if too few students show up for lectures, the instructor may restrict access to class videos.

WebForum: TBA, look for it on the class website shortly.

Use the webforum to post questions to the tutors and the TAs about lab and class work. Use it to ask questions of other students. Do not expect quick replies from the instructor, use e-mail for that. Do NOT post code onto the webforum.
COURSE WORK: CMPE 118

Attendance is highly recommended for the lectures as the material builds up quickly. Lecture material will be made available on the website, usually before covered in class. Annotated lecture notes and videos of the lecture will be posted after class in a timely fashion (see note on video above).

There will be weekly homework assignments that are both required and graded. Though they are worth only 3% of your overall grade, they are essential to mastering the material. There will one take-home midterm exam and various quizzes at random times during the quarter. The midterm and quiz material will be based on homework and lecture material.

LAB WORK: CMPE 118 L

This class should be a lot of fun. I would add also a lot of work (think: drinking from the firehose). There is a lot to cover, and only 10 weeks to get you familiar with it and using it in an unstructured project. Prepare to spend over 20 hours a week on this class, less at first, much more towards the end. We will make every attempt to help you, and to ensure that you succeed, but you have to put in the work yourselves.

You must be enrolled in CMPE 118L to remain in this class. You must pass CMPE 118 to pass CMPE 118L. You will receive the same grade for both the lab and the class, and thus cannot pass one without passing the other. There is a lab fee of $100 per student, which will cover the lab kits and the use of the microcontrollers and daughter-boards (which some of you will manage to damage by the end of the quarter). The lab will be open 24/7; times when the TA’s and the Professor are in Lab will be announced later in the quarter, but expect to spend all night there several times during the quarter.

We will be working with a 16 bit microcontroller, the Freescale 68HC9S12C32 (formerly Motorola), and have a number of subsystem modules and daughter boards that will help you through the course. This is a fairly typical microcontroller, inexpensive and powerful enough for the tasks that we will cover. Freescale offers educational starter kits with the same processor, and if you wish you may purchase such a board to allow you to work at home. Additionally, you will be working in teams of three for the project, and should think early about joining up with your team. See the class website for more information on the lab.

This class is based largely on a team project; as such it has a strong collaborative element. This collaboration is understood, and encouraged. However, this is NOT license to copy others’ work. Credit for collaboration should be explicitly noted; failure to give credit on collaboration is considered a form of cheating and will be dealt with accordingly.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is a requirement for the course. All assignments must be your own independent work; this includes homework, exams, and labs.

What is cheating? It is presenting work that is not yours as your own. You can, and are encouraged to, discuss and strategize with your colleagues on homeworks and labs, but your work should be your own. Copying is NEVER acceptable.

On the labs, cheating is sharing code when not explicitly told that it is permitted. If a student is caught cheating in either the class or the lab this will result in an immediate failure in the class and
the lab. It will be reported to your college and your department. DO NOT CHEAT; it is not worth it.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This course is based on the Smart Product Design sequence (ME218A, B, C), and the one quarter Mechatronics class (ME210/EE118) offered at Stanford by the Smart Product Design Lab, headed by Dr. Ed Carryer.

I would like to acknowledge the tremendous help of Prof. Ed Carryer of Stanford University in teaching the subject matter to me, for all of his help with the slides, the software libraries, and the electronic hardware, and lastly for pioneering this video capture technology, and helping me to set this course up. Without his help and inspiration, this class would not be here.