Course Outline

ECE 4260 – Communication Systems

Winter 2026

Instructor
- Faouzi Bellili
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Office Hours
- By appointment

Teaching Assistant
- Dilshan Morawaliyadda
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- Shehan Senarath
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Contact Hours
- 4 credit hours
- Lectures: 3 hours per week
- Laboratories: 3 hours x 5 weeks

Prerequisites:
- ECE 3780 Signal Processing 1
- STAT 2220 Contemporary Statistics for Engineers

Course Objectives

The course is indented to provide an introduction to modern analog and digital communication systems. The main topics covered include the fundamentals of analog and digital modulation, modeling random signals and noise, and elements of digital receivers. Laboratories provide hands-on experience with using measurement instruments such as oscilloscope and spectrum analyzer, and implementation of simple analog and digital communication systems using Simulink and software-defined radio (SDR).

Course Content

The following topics will be covered:

- Introduction to communication systems; analog vs. digital transmission; concepts of transmitter power and bandwidth; limitations of communication channels; performance measures such as SNR and BER
- Analog modulation techniques (AM, FM, and PM)
- Digital modulation techniques (ASK, PSK, QAM, and FSK)
- Review of probability theory with applications to communication systems
- Introduction to random processes; modeling of random signals and noise; correlation function, power spectrum, and linear filtering of random signals
- Digital receivers for Gaussian channels; elementary binary detection theory for polar and orthogonal signalling.

Other Resources

Fundamentals of Communication Systems, J.G. Proakis and M. Salehi, 2nd edition, Pearson-Prentice Hall, 2013.

Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the role of important elements of a modern communication system.
2. Analyze analog and digital modulation techniques by using signal processing tools.
3. Solve simple problems involving random signals, noise, and linear systems by using basic tools of probability and random processes.
4. Analyze the effects of channel noise on simple communication systems.
5. Identify (and justify the suitability of) a modulation technique for a given application scenario.

Expected Competency Levels

Outcome	KB	PA	IN	DE	ET	IT	CS	PR	IE	EE	EP	LL
1	I											
2	D	D	D	D	D							
3	D	D	D		D							
4	D	D	D	D	D							
5	I	D		D								

Traditional Territories Acknowledgement

The University of Manitoba campuses and research spaces are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anisininewuk, Dakota Oyate, Dene and Inuit, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

UM recognizes that the Treaties signed on these lands are a lifelong, enduring relationship, and we are dedicated to upholding their spirit and intent. We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and the present. With this understanding, we commit to supporting Indigenous excellence through active Reconciliation, meaningful change, and the creation of an environment where everyone can thrive. Our collaboration with Indigenous communities is grounded in respect and reciprocity and this guides how we move forward as an institution.

Important Dates

- **Term Test**
  March 4th, 2026
  6:00PM – 8:00PM
- **Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline**
  March 19th, 2026
- **Louis Riel Day**
  February 16th, 2026
  No classes or examinations
- **Spring Break**
  February 17th – 20th, 2026
  No classes or examinations
- **Good Friday**
  April 3rd, 2026
  No classes or examinations

Accreditation Details

Accreditation Units

- Mathematics: 0%
- Natural Science: 0%
- Complementary Studies: 0%
- Engineering Science: 100%
- Engineering Design: 0%

Graduate Attributes

KB: A knowledge base for engineering
PA: Problem analysis
IN: Investigation
DE: Design
ET: Use of engineering tools
IT: Individual and team work
CS: Communication skills
PR: Professionalism
IE: Impact of engineering on society/ environment
EE: Ethics and equity
EP: Economics and project management
LL: Life-long learning

Competency Levels

I - Introduced (Introductory)
D - Developed (Intermediate)
A - Applied (Advanced)

Evaluation

The final course grade is determined by the student's performance on assignments, in laboratories, and on examinations. Students must complete all the laboratories in order to be eligible to receive a passing grade.

Component	Value (%)	Method of Feedback	Learning Outcomes Evaluated
Assignments	10	F, S	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Laboratories	15	F, S	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Term Test	25	F, S	1, 2
Final Examination	50	S	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

∗ Method of Feedback: **F** - Formative (written comments and/or oral discussion), **S** - summative (numerical grade)

CEAB Graduate Attributes Assessed

KB.3 – Recalls and defines, and/or comprehends and applies information, first principles, and concept in fundamental engineering science.

IN.3 – Interprets results and reaches appropriate conclusions.

Student Absences

Attendance in lectures, tutorials, and laboratories is mandatory. For short-term absences due to illness or other extenuating circumstances of 120 hours (5 days) or less, students are required to complete a *Self-Declaration Form for Brief or Temporary Absence* available on the University website.🔗 This form must be submitted to the course instructor within 48 hours of the absence. (No additional documentation is required.)
Note that students are responsible to complete any missed work and must consult with the instructor to make appropriate arrangements.
For absences longer than 120 hours, students must contact the instructor and ECE Undergraduate Advisor, Tammy Holowachuk (Tammy.Holowachuk@umanitoba.ca) for further instructions.

Deferred Final Examinations

Students who miss the regular scheduled writing of a final examination, for valid medical or compassionate reasons, may be given the opportunity to write a deferred examination, subject to approval by the Associate Dean (Undergraduate). All requests for a deferred examination must be made within 48 hours of the missed examination, and must follow the procedure described on the Faculty website, without exception. Course instructors do not have the discretion to grant deferred final examinations.
(https://umanitoba.ca/engineering/student-experience#engineering-student-policies)

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest ethical standards of the Profession of Engineering and evince academic integrity in all their pursuits and activities at the university. As such, in accordance with the *General Academic Regulations on Academic Integrity* 🔗, students are reminded that plagiarism or any other form of cheating in examinations, term tests, assignments, projects, or laboratory reports is subject to serious academic penalty (e.g. suspension or expulsion from the faculty or university). This includes the unauthorized use of AI when preparing course deliverables. A student found guilty of contributing to cheating by another student is also subject to serious academic penalty. Integrity also applies to respecting copyrighted course content, which should not be distributed without the creator's permission. Uploading content for the purpose of transcription or other AI-enabled features is commonly a violation of the copyright holder's rights.

Copyright Notice

Grading Scale

Letter	Mark
A+	95–100
A	85–94
B+	80–84
B	70–79
C+	65–69
C	55–64
D	45–54
F	< 45

Note: These boundaries represent a guide for the instructor and class alike. Provided that no individual student is disadvantaged, the instructor may vary any of these boundaries to ensure consistency of grading from year-to-year.

Requirements and Regulations

- Attendance at lectures and laboratories is essential for successful completion of this course. Students must satisfy each evaluation component in the course to receive a passing final grade.
- It is the responsibility of each student to contact the instructor in a timely manner if they are uncertain about their standing in the course and about their potential for receiving a failing grade. Students should also familiarize themselves with the University's *General Academic Regulations* 🔗, as well as the Price Faculty of Engineering *Academic Regulations* 🔗 dealing with incomplete term work, deferred examinations, attendance and withdrawal.
- No programmable devices or systems (such as calculators, PDAs, smart phones, smart watches, wireless communication or data storage devices) are allowed in examinations unless approved by the course instructor.
- Students should be aware that they have access to an extensive range of resources and support organizations. These include Academic Resources, Counselling, Advocacy and Accessibility Offices as well as documentation of key University policies e.g. Academic Integrity, Respectful Behaviour, Examinations and related matters.

🔗 *Supplemental Resources*

Retention of Student Work

Students are advised that copies of their work submitted in completing course requirements (i.e. assignments, laboratory reports, project reports, test papers, examination papers, etc.) may be retained by the instructor and/or the department for the purpose of student assessment and grading, and to support the ongoing accreditation of each Engineering program. This material shall be handled in accordance with the University's *Intellectual Property Policy* and the protection of privacy provisions of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Manitoba)*. Students who do not wish to have their work retained must inform the Head of Department, in writing, at their earliest opportunity.