

UNSW
ELEC4122

Major Assignment

You are required to complete a major assignment. The default option in this case is a formal report, but *you have the opportunity to design your own assessment task* to demonstrate your achievement of some of the learning objectives in ELEC4122. This task proceeds in two parts.

In PART 1 you design an assignment, explaining what you will do and why. *You submit this proposal for approval before proceeding.*

Approving your proposal involves considering (i) its scope, given the assessment weighting (i.e. 15 %) and the number of people involved, and (ii) how well your proposal matches your stated learning objectives.

In PART 2 you complete this task, *complying with the details of the agreed, negotiated proposal.*

This assignment can be the work of an individual or a team; it can take any form: a traditional written report, an oral presentation, a piece of drama, reviews, etc. Launch your imagination!

If you want to write a Formal Report, though, the criteria are given in a separate document found on moodle, and you do not need to do anything except registering for a topic. If you want to write about a topic not on the list, then you do need to get topic approved. If you do not register for a topic, you will be assigned one. *All Formal Reports will be individual, not group, projects.*

Possibilities & Scope: To give you some other ideas, possible assignments include oral presentations (nominally 15 min), book reviews, public debates, skits, and critiques of public affairs. However, do not be limited by what is suggested in that list. Any submitted proposal will be considered seriously, at least as the starting point of negotiation.

If you wish to give an oral presentation, there is only a limited amount of time available in timetabled slots. Time-slots will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

As an indication of the amount of effort that is ‘expected as fair’, consider the specifications of the formal report found elsewhere.

As a starting place to identify the sort of topic that might be suitable, consider the topic lists provided elsewhere in the course materials.

expected student effort: As a guideline, we expect you to invest about 25 hr per person on this project. Some of your total effort would involve developing the proposal in Part 1. The amount expended on that will depend on the nature of your proposal. For example, a formal report would not take much time, unless the topic is obscure. The approval document for your assignment will show the notional fraction of time spent on developing the proposal.

If you undertake a group project, we will recognise that some of the time allowance will be used managing the internal operation of the group. This is a complicated nonlinear formula: for smaller groups, the cost of group management increases approximately as $n!$, where n is the size. For this reason, I would not encourage a group larger than 3 unless the actual format of the project (e.g. a classic 3 against 3 debate) intrinsically requires the complexity of such staffing.

Task Specifications—Part 1

The first deliverable is a *project proposal*, in which you detail *what you propose to do and how it demonstrates success in meeting learning objectives*. Of course, you are not expected to demonstrate engagement with all learning objectives in this one task. Composing the proposal necessitates formulating a marking scheme.

If you want to complete a formal report, you can receive a random topic or you can select one using the selection tool available in moodle. If you want a report topic not on the list, then you need to submit a proposal explaining to us what your report is about.

proposal's format: Once you have decided what to do, you write a brief description detailing the *people involved, what you will produce as a final assessable item, how that item demonstrates achievement of your chosen learning objectives, and the marking scheme* that should be used to determine the success of your project. The format is free because there are so many possible forms of projects. However, you must include sufficient details that the readers can understand what you will be doing, why, and how success will be determined—standard elements of any engineering project.

your marking scheme: Your proposal must include the marking scheme that you suggest we use in assessing your final project. This must include an allowance for relevant elements of your communication skills. In a group project, you may wish to allot some marks for the group's operation. The proposal for a group's project *must include how to divide the marks between members*. The marking scheme is subject to negotiated approval, too, and once agreed will be used to assess the final project. As examples of marking schemes, see the cover-sheets provided.

Approval Process

Once you have completed your proposal, submit it for approval. It will be graded satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

If the former, you can proceed. If the latter, you will also receive some suggestions about how it could be modified to comply with assessment needs of ELEC4122. You then need to rework your proposal and try again.

Task Specifications—Part 2

You must complete Part 2 as agreed in the approved proposal. It will be assessed against all nominated specifications, in accord with the agreed marking scheme.

Submission Details

For PART 1, attach the Proposal Cover-Sheet to the front of your proposal. You only need one proposal per team, if you are planning to work as a team. This is due

Monday Week 5

so that you have reasonable time to complete the assignment. However, you are strongly encouraged to get the approval process started sooner. *The sooner you submit, the sooner approved; the sooner approved, the more time available for completing it.*

For PART 2, a suitable originality declaration will be prescribed when you get the proposal approved. Complete this and pay attention to the agreed marking criteria. The **due date will be confirmed when your proposal is approved**. For example, if a Formal Report or Learning Resource, then Week 9; if an oral presentation, in the specified time-slot. In any case, all major assignments are due by Friday Week 10. The standard ELEC4122 penalty applies to later submissions (i.e. 20 % reduction in your mark per day late).

Remember that this task is weighted at 15 % of your summative mark for this course.