

**The University of Maine**  
**Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering**  
**ECE 214 – Electrical Circuits II**

Spring 2024

## **Electrical Circuits II**

Course: ECE 214.

Prerequisite: ECE 210 – Electric Circuits I.

Credits: 4.

Lectures: 9:30 - 10:45 am, Tuesday and Thursday, 211 Williams Hall.

Labs: 2:00 - 4:50 pm, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 221 Barrows Hall.

Web Site: Brightspace (<https://courses.umaine.edu>).

## **Instructor**

Dr. David E. Kotecki

Office: 277 Barrows Hall.

Virtual office: <https://maine.zoom.us/my/davidkotecki> (Password: circuits24).

e-mail: [kotecki@maine.edu](mailto:kotecki@maine.edu)

Phone: 207.581.2248

## **Office and Lab Hours**

9:00 - 10:00 am, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

2:00 - 4:50 pm, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday (221 Barrows Lab).

You are encouraged to drop by my office, either in-person or virtual, to ask questions and discuss homework problems related to this course. If you are unable to meet during these times, e-mail me to set up an appointment.

## **Text Book**

Title: [Electric Circuits \(12th edition\)](#)..

Authors: James W. Nilsson and Susan A. Riedel.

Publisher: Prentice Hall (2023).

ISBN-13: 9780137648160

Available as an e-text: <https://www.vitalsource.com/products/electric-circuits-subscription-james-w-nilsson-susan-riedel-v9780137648368>.

## **Teaching/Lab Assistants**

TBD, (e-mail: [shihab.ahamad@maine.edu](mailto:shihab.ahamad@maine.edu))

TBD, (e-mail: [faija.farjana@maine.edu](mailto:faija.farjana@maine.edu))

Teaching/Lab assistants are available to answer questions, manage the parts supply, and grade the laboratory notebooks and the draft reports.

## Course Goals

ECE 214 will prepare you for advanced courses in circuit analysis, electronics, and signals and systems. The five goals for this course are as follows.

1. Develop an understanding of the natural and step responses of series and parallel RLC circuits (Chapter 8 in textbook).
2. Develop an understanding of frequency selective circuits (filters) and the Fourier series (Chapters 14 and 16 in textbook).
3. Become knowledgeable and familiar with the operation and use of electrical test equipment including the digital oscilloscope, waveform generator, DC power supply, and voltage, current, resistance, capacitance, and inductance meters.
4. Become familiar with the properties of “real” circuit elements including the resistor, capacitor, inductor, transformer, and operational amplifier. The diode and transistor will be introduced, and used to implement a voltage-controlled switch.
5. Become proficient with the use of computer simulations and SPICE (Simulation Program with Integrated Circuit Emphasis) to predict and analyze circuit behavior under DC conditions, in the time domain, and in the frequency domain. Understand how to simulate circuit performance as a function of temperature, how to perform a component parameter sensitivity analysis, and how to use Monte Carlo simulations for yield analysis.
6. Develop skills and techniques for debugging electrical circuits and circuit simulations.
7. Learn how to maintain a proper “Engineering Notebook,” (Labs 1-10) and how to produce a well written “technical report” (Labs 7-9). The IEEE style guide and the typesetting language  $\text{\LaTeX}$  will be introduced.

## Laboratory Teams

Each students should partner with another student and work as a two-person team. Each student should collaborate with his or her partner on circuit simulations and electrical measurements, and try and debug each others simulations and circuits. This collaboration is most efficiently accomplished during in-class labs and over Zoom. Under all conditions, students should follow CDC and UMaine guidelines for reducing COVID-19 transmission.

Each student must maintain his or her own engineering notebook. However, the technical report due at the end of the semester will be a joint report from the team. If you and your laboratory partner have irreconcilable differences, you will have the opportunity to change laboratory partners at the mid-semester break.

## Equipment and Supplies

The following equipment and supplies will be needed to complete the labs in ECE 214. Make sure you have acquired items 1 - 10 below before the end of the first week of class.

1. Calculator – It is strongly recommended that you have a calculator capable of solving simultaneous linear equations with complex variables. Calculators are needed during the labs and when taking exams. The most popular calculators are the TI-89 Titanium, TI Nspire CX CAS, and the TI Nspire CX II CAS. If you do not own one of these calculators, make sure you can borrow one for use during the exams.
2. Engineering (Laboratory) Notebook – Recommend the National Brand computation notebook, model #43-648. Available from the UMaine Bookstore or order online.
3. Digital Volt Meter (DVM) – Distributed during the first week of ECE 214.
4. Electrical Breadboard – Distributed during the first week of ECE 214.
5. BNC to Alligator Clip Cable (1X Probe) – Distributed during the first week of ECE 214.
6. 60 MHz X1-X10 Oscilloscope Probes (2) – Distributed during the first week of ECE 214.
7. The Digilent “Analog Discovery 2” 100 MS/sec oscilloscope, function generator, and logic analyzer – Digilent part number 410-321. Available from the UMaine Bookstore or Digilent.
8. BNC Adaptor Board for the Analog Discovery 2 – Digilent part number 410-263. Available from the UMaine Bookstore or Digilent.
9. Dual-output 12 V ( $\pm 100$  mA) USB power supply (PowerBrick) – Digilent, part number 410-293-A. Available from the UMaine Bookstore or Digilent.
10. Circuit Components – resistors, capacitors, inductors, opamps, and transistors are provided during ECE 214 as needed.

If you are missing or have difficulty obtaining any of the items, e-mail Dr. Kotecki at [kotecki@maine.edu](mailto:kotecki@maine.edu).

## Useful but Optional Supplies

Having resistor and capacitor kits will reduce the number of trips you need to make to the parts cabinet in Barrows Hall. The following kits are available on Amazon.com.

1. [Resistor Kit](#) – 1 $\Omega$  - 4.7M $\Omega$
2. [Capacitor Kit](#) – 0.1 - 10 $\mu$ F
3. [Capacitor Kit](#) – 10pF - 100nF

## Engineering Notebook

Each student must maintain a proper “Engineering notebook.” A National Brand computation notebook, model #43-648, is recommended, and is available from the UMaine Bookstore. An engineering notebook must be a bound book with consecutively numbered pages. All notebook entries must be done in pen. Do not tear pages out of your notebook. Do not erase anything in your notebook. Composition books having quadrille ruled sheets make good notebooks: they allow tables, graphs, and circuit diagrams to be laid out neatly. Notebooks with duplicate pages and carbon paper are impressive, but messy and not necessary. Spiral notebooks, loose leaf binders and electronic notebooks are not acceptable.

The engineering notebook must be used to record all calculations, preliminary and final designs, circuit simulation schematics and results, measured data, graphs, and analysis pertaining to the laboratory experiments. A photograph of your breadboard showing the working circuit must be included in the notebook. Basically, everything you do in this class must be recorded in the notebook! Guidelines for maintaining an engineering notebook are provided at: [https://ece214.davidkotecki.com/docs/ECE\\_Notebook\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://ece214.davidkotecki.com/docs/ECE_Notebook_Guidelines.pdf). When recording information in your notebook, the question you should ask yourself is: “Did I record a sufficient amount of information for someone to reproduce my results?”

An engineering, or laboratory, notebook serves several functions. In industry it can serve as a legal document to establish priority of invention in patent disputes. While we do not expect many patentable discoveries to come out of the ECE 214 labs and the U.S. has moved to a first-to-file patent system, you should still develop good engineering notebook habits. It will serve you well when you go to work for a company that has such expectations. In scientific research, an engineering notebook provides a record that allows you to duplicate your work if you succeed at your endeavor (or if you achieve some unexpected but significant result). It's also useful in identifying what might have gone wrong if you do not achieve your desired result.

After the lab has been completed, scan or photograph the appropriate notebook pages, and upload them to the Assignment section of Brightspace, where they will be graded.

## Technical Report

Each team will submit a series of technical reports, culminating in a final report, describing the DC-DC power supply analyzed and designed in Labs 7 – 10. The report must describe the theory of operation, design considerations, simulation results, including a temperature analysis, measurement results, and a cost analysis. A suggested outline for the technical report is available at: [https://ece214.davidkotecki.com/report/ECE214\\_2024\\_Report\\_Outline.pdf](https://ece214.davidkotecki.com/report/ECE214_2024_Report_Outline.pdf).

A draft and revised report must be submitted in hard copy by the deadline listed in the syllabus and on Brightspace. Reports should be left in the box labeled “ECE 214 Reports,” located in 221 Barrows. The final version of the report must be submitted as a hard copy no later than 5 pm EDT on Friday, 26 April 2024. Late reports are **NOT** accepted.

## Digilent Electronic Test Equipment Software

The “Waveforms” data acquisition software is used in conjunction with the Digilent “Analog Discovery” test equipment. The software is available for Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux. You can download the “Waveforms” software onto your laptop from the Digilent website: <https://reference.digilentinc.com/reference/software/waveforms/waveforms-3/start>.

## Circuit Simulation and Data Analysis

NGspice ([http://www.cppsim.com/about\\_ngspice.html](http://www.cppsim.com/about_ngspice.html)), an open source, multi-platform, circuit simulator is used to perform circuit simulations. It is recommended that each student install the NGspice circuit simulator, the Sues2 schematic capture program, and the NGspice Matlab® toolbox on his or her laptop. The easiest way to obtain the software is to install the bundled CppSim package from <http://www.cppsim.com/download.html>. NGspice is a full SPICE circuit simulator, capable of simulating a circuit of any complexity using real device models.

Matlab® by MathWorks (<http://www.mathworks.com/>) is used to control the NGspice circuit simulator and analyze and graph the simulation results from NGspice. Matlab® is a multi-platform numerical computing environment and a programming language used for technical computing. The University of Maine provides a free Matlab® license to all students. Each student should install version 2021b of Matlab® on his or her laptop. Download Matlab® from <https://umaine.edu/it/software/matlab>.

The LTspice version 17.0 circuit simulator from Analog Devices (<https://www.analog.com/design-center/design-tools-and-calculators.html>) is an alternative Spice circuit simulator. We will be transitioning from NGspice to LTspice throughout the semester.

## Laboratory Periods

There are a total of ten graded labs. Each lab is divided into a maximum of three parts.

- “Pre-Lab” – Design calculations and simulations. The “Pre-Lab” should be completed and recorded in your engineering notebook **before** starting the experimental section – also known as the laboratory procedure.
- “Laboratory Procedure” – Implementation and measurements of circuit performance. The “Laboratory Procedure” should be completed **during** the assigned laboratory period, and if more time is needed, at a time convenient for you and your lab partner to meet either in-person or over Zoom.
- “Post-Lab” – Analysis and comparison of theory, simulations and measurement results. The “Post-Lab” should be completed **after** the laboratory procedure has been completed.

To receive the maximum laboratory credit, scan or photograph the pages from your Engineering Notebook showing the completed “Pre-Lab,” “Laboratory Procedure,” and “Post-Lab;” Upload these to the Assignment section in Brightspace no later than the due date. Late submissions will incur a 50% penalty.

## Class/Lab Cancellations

In the event that the University closes due to inclement weather and a laboratory session is canceled, that laboratory will need to be made-up during another laboratory session. A Wednesday and/or Friday laboratory session may be offered.

## Exams

There are three exams. The exams are closed book and closed notes. You may use your Engineering Notebook, a ruler, and a hand held calculator during the exams. The Engineering Notebook may contain an Appendix with equations. The lowest grade of the three exams is dropped. The exams will cover basic circuit theory, circuit simulation, the use of electrical test equipment, and the laboratory experiments.

Exam 1	7 Mar. 2024
Exam 2	23 Apr. 2024
Final Exam	30 April 2024 (8:00 - 10:00 am)

Poor presentation of your work will lower your grade – be neat! I will do my best to figure out what you meant to do on a problem, but if the work is poorly laid out and messy, your grade will suffer.

Anyone who is unable to take the exam during the scheduled examination period must notify the instructor prior to the exam. If you are excused from the exam for cause, a make-up exam will be offered during the last week of classes.

## Grading

Labs and Notebook (Labs 1 - 10)	40%
Technical Report (Preliminary)	5%
Technical Report (Final)	15%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
<b>Total*</b>	<u>100%</u>

\* Lowest exam grade is dropped

## Letter Grade Assignment

$\geq 90\%$	A
87.5% – 90.0%	B +
80.0% – 87.5%	B
77.5% – 80.0%	C +
70.0% – 77.5%	C
67.5% – 70.0%	D +
60.0% – 67.5%	D
$< 60\%$	F

## Tentative Laboratory Schedule

Lab	Start Date	Laboratory Topic	Notebook Due*
Lab 0	16 Jan. 2024	Teams, Software, Parts & Electrical Safety	—
Lab 1	18 Jan. 2024	Test Equipment Loading	26 Jan. 2024
Lab 2	25 Jan. 2024	Operational Amplifier Circuits I	2 Feb. 2024
Lab 3	1 Feb. 2024	Operational Amplifier Circuits II	9 Feb. 2024
Lab 4	15 Feb. 2024	First Order RC Circuits	23 Feb. 2024
Lab 5	22 Feb. 2024	RC Filter	1 Mar. 2024
Lab 6	29 Feb. 2024	Inductors and the RLC Circuit	22 Mar. 2024
Lab 7	21 Mar. 2024	Boost Converter	29 Mar. 2024
Lab 8	28 Mar. 2024	Astable Multivibrator	5 Apr. 2024
Lab 9	4 Apr. 2024	DC–DC Converter	12 Apr. 2024
Lab 10	11 Apr. 2024	Thévenin Equivalent Circuits	19 Apr. 2024

\* If you have lab on Thursday, the notebook is due three days later than indicated.

## Tentative Report Schedule

Report	Due Date
Draft 1	5 April 2024 at 5:00 pm EDT
Draft 2	15 April 2024 at 5:00 pm EDT
Final Report	26 April 2024 at 5:00 pm EDT

## **COVID-19 Statement**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jOhqbS41nmC9HLYfge5JA2mtlBLL0Ao9/view>

## **Academic Honesty Statement**

Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University. Please see the University of Maine System's Academic Integrity Policy listed in the Board Policy Manual as Policy 314: [www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/policy-manual/section-314/](http://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/policy-manual/section-314/).

## **Students Accessibility Services Statement**

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Student Accessibility Services, 121 East Annex, 581.2319, as early as possible in the term. Students who have already been approved for accommodations by SAS and have a current accommodation letter should meet with Dr. Kotecki privately as soon as possible.

## **Course Schedule Disclaimer (Disruption Clause)**

In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities (due to COVID-19 or other long-term disruptions), the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

## **Observance of Religious Holidays/Events**

The University of Maine recognizes that when students are observing significant religious holidays, some may be unable to attend classes or labs, study, take tests, or work on other assignments. If they provide adequate notice (at least one week and longer if at all possible), these students are allowed to make up course requirements as long as this effort does not create an unreasonable burden upon the instructor, department or University. At the discretion of the instructor, such coursework could be due before or after the examination or assignment. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to a student's grade for the examination, study, or course requirement on the day of religious observance. The student shall not be marked absent from the class due to observing a significant religious holiday. In the case of an internship or clinical, students should refer to the applicable policy in place by the employer or site.

## **Sexual Violence Policy: Sexual Discrimination Reporting**

The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a teacher about an experience of sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct or any form of gender discrimination involving members of the campus, your teacher is required to report this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.



If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For confidential resources on campus: Counseling Center: 207-581-1392 or Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000.

For confidential resources off campus: Rape Response Services: 1-800-310-0000 or Spruce Run: 1-800-863-9909.

Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help: For support services on campus: Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911. Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at <http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/>