Biomedical Electronic Measurements

BME253L (Fall 2025)

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Personnel

Instructor

Dr. Mark Palmeri (`mlp6`)

- Email: mark.palmeri@duke.edu
- Ed Discussion
- Office Hours: Tues & Thurs, 14:30-15:30 (258 Hudson Hall Annex)

Teaching Assistants

- Erin O'Kane (Office Hours: Thurs, 12:30-14:30, CIEMAS 2559)
- Olutoni Akintoye (Office Hours: Sat 12:00-15:00 & Sun 14:00-17:00, Wilkinson 130)

> **Tip**
>
> Questions that can be answered by Dr. Palmeri or a teaching assistant should be posted on Ed Discussion.

Course Times & Locations

Lecture

Monday & Wednesday, 10:05-11:20, CIEMAS 1411 (Panopto recording **not** available)

Labs

Wednesday, 13:25-16:25, Hudson 028A (Basement)

Attendance and participation in all lab periods is required to pass this course. Labs can only be made up with **advanced** appoval from Dr. Palmeri. Days/times to make up labs will be decided by your TA and Lab Instructor in advance of missing lab.

> **Caution**
>
> Two unexcused lab absences will result in automatic failure of this class.

> **Warning**
>
> No food or drink is allowed in the lab! Failure to adhere to this policy will have consequences on your lab grades.

> **Important**
>
> Please review the lab policies before using the lab for the first time this semester.

Course Objectives

This course introduces students to the foundational concepts and practical skills in electronic circuits designed for detecting biological signals.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Perform circuit analysis using:
  - Ohm's Law
  - Kirchhoff's Voltage and Current Laws (KVL & KCL)
  - Equivalent Resistance for Series and Parallel Circuits
  - Node Voltage Analysis
  - Mesh Current Analysis
- Analysis circuits using the complex impedance of reactive capacitors and inductors.
  - Use phasors to describe amplitude and phase for reactive circuit analysis.
  - Generate and interpret Bode plots
- Analysis and design first- and second-order filters in the frequency and time domains.
- Circuit schematic capture (KiCad)
- Circuit SPICE simulation (KiCad)
- Develop skills to use common electronic bench equipment to drive and measurement electronic circuits, including:
  - Use DC and AC voltage sources.
  - Use oscilloscopes to evaluate time and frequency domain circuit response.
  - Use digitial multimeters to measure voltage, current and impedance.
  - Use function generators to generate time-varying signals to input into circuits.
- Understand ideal operational amplifiers and their use in active amplifiers, filters and comparators.
- Understand basic semiconductor physics to describe how diodes work, and use diodes for clamping and rectification.
- Work with basic digital input/output signals.

Prerequisites

- EGR105L or equivalent experience [git, Python]

Textbooks

- **Required**: Practical Electronics for Inventors, Paul Scherz and Simon Monk. 3rd or 4th edition
- Lessons in Electic Circuits (Free Online)
- Fundamentals of Electrical Engineering, Giorgio Rizzoni (First Edition or Second Edition, McGraw Hill, ISBN 9780073380377)
- The Art of Electronics, Horowitz and Hill

Learning Management System

We will be using Canvas as the learning management system for this course. Most resources will be linked to the course website. All grades will be posted via Canvas/Gradescope.

Ed Discussion will be used for general course questions and discussion.

Class Schedule

This class is organized in a sequence of learning modules. Specific details surrounding dates for assignments associated with each module will be posted to Gradescope and linked below.

Learning Module Schedule

Module	Materials	Assessment	Lab Exercise
Resistive Circuit Analysis	-> Introduction to Circuits -> Ohm's Law, KCL & KVL, Resistive Loads, Meters -> Equivalent Resistance -> Circuit Analysis Approaches -> Source Equivalents	-> Software Installation & Tutorials -> Problem Set 01 -> Problem Set 02 -> Problem Set 03	-> Introduction -> Ohm's Law & Power

Module	Materials	Assessment	Lab Exercise
ECAD (KiCad)	-> ECAD using KiCad: Schematic Capture -> ECAD using KiCad: SPICE Modeling		-> Schematic Capture & SPICE Simulation
Midterm I (Sep 22, 2025)			
Capacitors & Inductors DC RC/RL Circuit Analysis	-> Reactive Components: Capacitors & Inductors	-> Problem Set 04	Capacitors, Inductors & Oscilloscopes
Complex Impedance, AC Signals, Phasors	-> Sinusoidal Signals -> Complex Impedance		Impedance
AC RLC Circuit Analysis Passive Filters Transfer Functions & Bode Plots (Frequency Domain)	-> Filters		Filters
Transient Response (Time Domain)			Transient Response
Midterm II (Oct 27, 2025)			
Operational Amplifiers & Active Filters			Opamps
Transformers & Diodes			Transformers & Diodes
Midterm III (Dec 03, 2025)			
Wheatstone Bridge			Wheatstone Bridge: Temperature Measurement
Final Lab Practical (Dec 10, 2025)			

Special Dates

- Labor Day - No Class (Sep 01, 2025)

- Fall Break - No Class (Oct 11-14, 2025)
- Midterm I (Mon, Sep 22, 2025)
- Midterm II (Wed, Oct 27, 2025)
- Midterm III (Wed, Dec 03, 2025)
- Final Lab Practical (Dec 10, 2025, 09:00-12:00)

> **!** Important
>
> Unless there are unforeseen circumstances that affect our course schedule, midterm and final lab practical dates should not change.

Attendance & Participation

Class participation in lecture is strongly encouraged. Students are responsible for obtaining missed lecture content from other students in the class. All lecture slides/presented content will be made availabe online (Canvas). Our classroom this semester is not equipped for Panopto recording, so students who miss lecture will be responsible for getting lecture materials from fellow students.

Participation on Ed Discussion is also encouraged, in the form of:

- Asking questions about the course material (ideally, publicly, so that others can benefit (Anonymous okay))
- Answering questions from other students
- Sharing interesting articles or resources related to the course material

Assignments & Grading

Grading

Fundamental knowledge will be assessed with regular problem sets and online quizzes. There are important guidelines to follow when submitting your problem sets electronically to Gradescope.

Lab exercises, as described above, are mandatory to pass the class. Lab exercises will synthesize your theoretical and analytic circuit analysis skills with practical circuit debugging and testing. Lab exercises will include pre-lab exercises and post-lab submissions of data collection and analysis from the lab exercises.

There will be three midterm exams and a final lab practical will be held during the final exam period in the lab. For the exams, your best 2 midterm scores will be counted towards your final grade.

Table 2: Grade Distribution

Grade Category	Relative Percentage
Problem Sets & Quizzes	20%
Labs	15% (pre-lab) + 15% (post-lab) = 30%
Midterms	$2 \times 15\% = 30\%$
Lab Practical	20%

All assignment grades will be posted to Gradescope (and linked to the Canvas gradebook) throughout the semester to track your performance.

Course Grade

This course is not "curved" (i.e., a distribution of grades will not be enforced), and a traditional grading scheme will be used (e.g., 90-93 = A-, 94-97 = A, 97-100 = A+). Participation throughout the semester will influence rounding up/down for fractional grades.

> ⚠ Warning
>
> Failing the course can happen with a cummulative score < 65 (D) or more than one unexcused lab absence.

Regrades

Any regrading requests need to be made **within one week of grades for a given assignment being released**. You must make the request via Gradescope and provide a description of why you feel a regrade is appropriate. Requesting a regrade could lead to additional loss of credit when an assignment is re-evaluated.

Some assignments will have an opportunity to be resubmitted based on grading feedback at the discretion of Dr. Palmeri.

Late Policy / SDAO Accomodations

Late submission windows will be available for all assignments, minus the in-person lab sessions and the final lab practical, and should be used to accomodate acute illness, travel, high workload from other classes and other unforeseen circumstances. *This late submission window can be utilized without penalty and without prior approval.*

Students with SDAO accomodations for extended time on assignments can use this extended late submission window for all assignments.

Any assignments submitted after the late submission window will only be accepted for partial credit at the discretion of Dr. Palmeri or if prior approval was sought **before the original (not extended) due date**.

Duke Community Standard

All students are expected to adhere to all principles of the Duke Community Standard. Violations of the Duke Community Standard will be referred immediately to the Office of Student Conduct. Please do not hesitate to talk with Dr. Palmeri about any situations involving academic honor, especially if it is ambiguous what should be done.

FAQ

Can I collaborate with other students?

Engineering is inherently a collaborative field, and in this class, you are encouraged to work collaboratively on your projects. That being said, all of the work that you submit must be generated by you and reflect your understanding of the material.

> **!** Important
>
> All resources used in your assignment submissions that were developed by another person or company must be properly acknowledged.

Can I use AI?

The use of artificial intelligence is a rapidly developing resource / tool in engineering. In software development, there are many levels of AI-assitance available. Such form of assistance include the IntelliCode tools and GitHub CoPilot (free to students through the GitHub Education program). These tools can be leveraged to help with coding syntax.

> Caution
>
> You are strongly cautioned to not rely on these tools for solving circuit analysis problems, as these tools will not be available for your midterm exams and final lab practical. They are best used to help complete code syntax in this class.