Group 2 Electives

# CMPUT 250

* **Course Description:**  
  An interdisciplinary course for students in Science, Arts, and other faculties. The focus is on games as interactive entertainment, their role in society, and how they are made. Teams composed of students with diverse backgrounds (e.g. English, Art and Design, and Computing Science) follow the entire creative process: from concept, through pitch, to delivery, of a short narrative-based game using a commercial game engine. To achieve the required mix of backgrounds and experience, students must apply to be considered for this course. See the Department web site for the online form.
* **Prerequisite:** Second-year standing
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Fall Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Matthew Guzdial (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Fall Term 2024, Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:** The course CMPUT 250 is known for having a significant workload, with students reporting spending a lot of time on midterms, finals, labs, and a group project. The tests and labs are considered relatively easy, but the group project can be more challenging depending on the group dynamics. The average grade for the course is reportedly high, around a 3.9. Getting into the course may involve being on a waiting list, and it is likely a highly-demanded course. For students taking the course as a music major, the amount of music creation required can vary depending on the game project chosen, with some students spending more time on sound effects than actual tracks. Using RPG maker for the course reduces the need for extensive programming for the music role. Overall, the course is reported to be quite difficult.

# CMPUT 304

* **Course Description:**  
  The second course of a two-course sequence on algorithm design. Emphasis on principles of algorithm design. Categories of algorithms such as divide-and-conquer, greedy algorithms, dynamic programming; analysis of algorithms; limits of algorithm design; NP-completeness; heuristic algorithms.
* **Prerequisites:** CMPUT 204; one of STAT 151, 161, 181, 235, 265, SCI 151, or MATH 181; and one of MATH 225, 227, or 228
* **Terms the course is available in:**Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor(s):**Instructor(s) undecided for Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor ratings:**No professors teaching this term, so no ratings available at all
* **Course Difficulty:**Insufficient information available on course difficulty

# CMPUT 307

* **Course Description:**  
  An introductory course on the theory and applications of computer based 3D modeling and animation. The course will cover a selection of topics from overview of tools supporting modeling and animation, automatically generating 3D models, and animation of skeleton based models through algorithms and software. Applications of 3D modeling and animation in games, virtual/augmented environments, movies, and emerging video transmission algorithms will be discussed.
* **Prerequisites:** one of CMPUT 206, 308, or 411; or consent of the instructor
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024
* **Instructor(s):**Anup Basu (teaching in Winter Term 2024),
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:**307 is a challenging course, especially for those without a strong foundation in linear algebra and 3D math. Prerequisites include CMPUT 206, 308, or 411, and it may be possible to waive the prerequisite with instructor consent. It is recommended to take 340 and 411 before attempting 307, and having a solid understanding of 3D math concepts will be beneficial. Enrolling without 206 may be difficult.

# CMPUT 325

* **Course Description:**  
  A study of the theory, run-time structure, and implementation of selected non-procedural programming languages. Languages will be selected from the domains of functional, and logic-based languages.
* **Prerequisites:** CMPUT 201 and 204 or 275; one of CMPUT 229, E E 380 or ECE 212, and MATH 125
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Jia-Huai You (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:** The comments suggest that there have been instances of significant stress and anxiety during exams in the course CMPUT 325. The first comment describes someone who seemed overwhelmed during a test and the second comment describes someone who had a dramatic reaction. These incidents suggest that the course may be challenging and stressful for some students. However, it's important to note that these are anecdotal experiences and may not be representative of the experience of all students in the course.

# CMPUT 350

* **Course Description:**  
  This course focuses on state-of-the-art AI and graphics programming for video games. Part 1 introduces C++, the language of choice for video game engines, emphasizing efficiency, safety, the Standard Template Library, and OpenGL. Part 2 on real time strategy deals with efficient pathfinding algorithms, planning, and scripting AI systems. Student projects give hands-on experience directly applicable to the video games industry.
* **Prerequisites:** CMPUT 201 or 275, and 204
* **Terms the course is available in:**Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor(s):**Instructor(s) undecided for Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor ratings:**No professors teaching this term, so no ratings available at all
* **Course Difficulty:** The course CMPUT 350 is considered to be challenging and requires a significant amount of effort and dedication. Students are encouraged to stay on top of the material, practice consistently, and not fall behind. The course covers various topics, some of which may be familiar from other courses like algorithms or software engineering design patterns. The assignments can take a long time to complete, but students are advised to take them in stride and not get discouraged. The group project can also be a source of frustration for some students. It is recommended that students take the prerequisite courses before attempting CMPUT 350, and that they make use of the supportive TAs to help them through the material. The course is known for being overwhelmingly hard, but many students have successfully completed it and gone on to have successful careers in the field. It is important for students to maintain perspective and not get discouraged by the challenges of the course.

# CMPUT 366

* **Course Description:**  
  This course provides an introduction to search and planning in artificial intelligence. The course covers deterministic single-agent and multi-agent problems. Students will learn how to model real-world problems as state-space search problems and how to solve such problems. The course covers algorithms for solving deterministic shortest path problems with factored and non-factored states, combinatorial optimization problems, constraint satisfaction problems, and multi- agent problems.
* **Prerequisites:** CMPUT 204 or 275, and CMPUT 272
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor(s):**Levi Santana de Lelis (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:** The comments suggest that CMPUT 366 is generally considered an easier course, especially in the beginning, as long as one can understand the theoretical concepts. However, the neural network portion towards the end of the course is reported to be more challenging. Some students have expressed high praise for the previous professor, Dr. Sutton, who is no longer teaching the course. The course is seen as providing a strong foundation for understanding AI algorithms and their applications, although it may not be directly applicable to most industries without further education. The final exam was disrupted by a fire alarm, causing controversy over whether students should be required to retake it. Overall, the course is perceived as relatively easy.

# CMPUT 391

* **Course Description:**  
  This course covers the implementation of RDBMSs and some non- relational data models, along with their query languages. Topics: compilation, execution, and optimization of SQL queries; concurrent execution of transactions; indexing; advanced constructs in SQL; semi-structured data models and query languages; distributed and parallel databases; NoSQL and cloud-based database systems.
* **Prerequisites:** CMPUT 201 and 204, or 275; and CMPUT 291
* **Terms the course is available in:**No term decided yet/not offered this year
* **Instructor(s):**No instructor teaching the course
* **Instructor ratings:**No professors teaching this term, so no ratings available at all
* **Course Difficulty:** The course CMPUT 391, as described in the comments, appears to be a challenging one, with a focus on the in-depth workings of a DBMS, including algorithms for table scans, joins, and other database-related concepts. The course material covers both theoretical and factual aspects, and students have reported varying levels of difficulty and usefulness, depending on their interests and learning styles. Some students have found the course to be useful for refining their SQL skills and gaining a deeper understanding of databases, while others have found it to be a waste of time and effort, with unclear assignments and unhelpful TAs. The course is taught by Denilson Barbosa, who is known for his humor in class but also for marking harshly. Students have reported that the course material has changed in recent years, with a shift towards using SQLite3 and C for assignments, and a focus on the hardware of databases and database algorithms. Overall, the course seems to be a challenging one that requires a significant time investment and a strong understanding of database concepts.

# CMPUT 411

* **Course Description:**  
  2D and 3D transformation; 3D modeling and viewing; illumination models and shading methods; texture mapping; ray tracing.
* **Prerequisites:** CMPUT 204 or 275, 301; one of CMPUT 340, 418 or equivalent knowledge, and MATH 214
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Pierre Boulanger (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:**Insufficient information available on course difficulty

# CMPUT 415

* **Course Description:**  
  Compilers, interpreters, lexical analysis, syntax analysis, syntax- directed translation, symbol tables, type checking, flow analysis, code generation, code optimization.
* **Prerequisites:** one of CMPUT 229, E E 380, or ECE 212, and any 300-level Computing Science course
* **Terms the course is available in:**Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor(s):**Instructor(s) undecided for Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor ratings:**No professors teaching this term, so no ratings available at all
* **Course Difficulty:**415 is a challenging course with a significant workload, attracting high achievers and those with an interest in compilers. The course material is now in C++ and includes 4 projects that ramp up in scale and sophistication, with the final project being a group effort. The course covers a lot of material and requires a good understanding of Java, as well as familiarity with parser generators and intermediate languages like LLVM. The workload is constant and the course is known for being the most work-intensive in the CMPUT program.

# CMPUT 466

* **Course Description:**  
  Learning is essential for many real-world tasks, including recognition, diagnosis, forecasting and data-mining. This course covers a variety of learning scenarios (supervised, unsupervised and partially supervised), as well as foundational methods for regression, classification, dimensionality reduction and modeling. Techniques such as kernels, optimization and probabilistic graphical models will typically be introduced. It will also provide the formal foundations for understanding when learning is possible and practical. Credit cannot be obtained for both CMPUT 367 and CMPUT 466.
* **Prerequisites:** CMPUT 204 or 275; MATH 125; CMPUT 267 or MATH 214; or consent of the instructor
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor(s):**Bailey Kacsmar (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:** The comments suggest that CMPUT 466 is a challenging course, particularly for those who struggle with mathematics and theory. The course is described as requiring a significant amount of calculus and statistics. Some commenters recommend taking other courses, such as STAT 265, 266, 371, and 372, in addition to CMPUT 466 for those interested in machine learning. Others suggest alternative courses, such as CMPUT 304 and CMPUT 474, that may be more suitable for those who prefer systems and data management. It appears that waivers for prerequisites may no longer be granted easily due to high demand and a lack of mathematical background.

# ECE 303

* **Course Description:**  
  Differential amplifiers. Frequency response: active device high-frequency behaviour and circuit models; amplifier circuits and design. Feedback: concepts and structure; feedback topologies and amplifiers; open- and closed-loop response. Operational amplifiers: behaviour, circuit analysis and design. Requires payment of additional student instructional support fees. Refer to the Tuition and Fees page in the University Regulations section of the Calendar. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 303 or E E 350.
* **Prerequisite:** ECE 302 or E E 340
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Fall Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Zhenyu Zhang (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Fall Term 2024, Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:** ECE 303 appears to be a challenging course, with the instructor allowing for a passing grade of a C but still facing significant difficulties. The course content includes the use of "Basic Matrix Algebra and Transistor Circuits" as a reference, suggesting a focus on matrix algebra and circuit design. However, the instructor's improvisation of the course may add to the complexity.

# ECE 321

* **Course Description:**  
  Software quality attributes. Software requirements. Requirements elicitation via interviewing, workshops, prototyping, and use case analysis. Vision document and Software Requirement Specification document standards. Formal software specification methods including operational and descriptive models. Design by contract. Verification and validation of requirements. Credit may be obtained in only one of CMPE 310 or ECE 321.
* **Prerequisite:** CMPUT 275
* **Terms the course is available in:**Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor(s):**Instructor(s) undecided for Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor ratings:**No professors teaching this term, so no ratings available at all
* **Course Difficulty:** The course ECE 321 is considered to be of moderate difficulty, with an emphasis on understanding the material rather than memorization. The course covers both theory and design aspects, and includes interactive and fun classes. Students work on one project throughout the semester, which involves creating various documents and diagrams.

# ECE 360

* **Course Description:**  
  Linear system models. Time response and stability. Block diagrams and signal flow graphs. Feedback control system characteristics. Dynamic compensation. Root locus analysis and design. Frequency response analysis and design. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 360, ECE 362, E E 357, E E 462 or E E 469.
* **Prerequisites:** ECE 203 or E E 250, and ECE 240 or E E 238
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Fall Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Tongwen Chen (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Fall Term 2024, Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:**442, being a multimedia signal processing course, is generally considered to be easier than ECE 360, which is known for its depth and complexity in the field of electronics and computer engineering. The comments suggest that 442 focuses on machine learning, which may make it more interesting for some students, but does not necessarily increase its difficulty.

# ECE 380

* **Course Description:**  
  Basics of analog communication: amplitude, angle, and analog pulse modulation; modulators and demodulators; frequency multiplexing. Basics of digital communication: sampling, quantization, pulse code modulation, time division multiplexing, binary signal formats. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 380 or E E 390.
* **Prerequisite:** ECE 240 or E E 238
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Fall Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Xingyu Li (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Fall Term 2024, Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:**Insufficient information available on course difficulty

# ECE 402

* **Course Description:**  
  Introduction to radio communications systems. Frequency selective circuits and transformers. Parallel resonant circuits including transformers. Double-tuned circuits. Impedance matching. Oscillators. Conditions for oscillation. Amplitude limitation mechanisms. Phase stability. Crystal oscillators. Mixers. Diode-ring mixers. Square-law mixers. BJT mixers. Intermodulation distortion. Modulators and demodulators. Average envelope detectors. FM demodulators. High frequency amplifiers and automatic gain control. Broadband techniques. Neutralization. Phase-lock loops. Phase detectors. Voltage-controlled oscillators. Loop filters. Phase-locked loop applications. Power amplifiers. Corequisite: ECE 360 or ECE 362 or E E 357 or E E 462. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 402 or E E 451.
* **Prerequisite:** ECE 303 or E E 350
* **Terms the course is available in:**No term decided yet/not offered this year
* **Instructor(s):**No instructor teaching the course
* **Instructor ratings:**No professors teaching this term, so no ratings available at all
* **Course Difficulty:**Insufficient information available on course difficulty

# ECE 403

* **Course Description:**  
  Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) design techniques and their application. Electrical characteristics of MOSFET devices and CMOS circuits. Use of CAD tools for simulation and integrated circuit layout. Modeling delays, advanced digital logic circuit techniques, memory. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 403 or E E 453.
* **Prerequisite:** ECE 304 or E E 351; corequisite: ECE 410 or CMPE 480
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Duncan Elliott (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:**442, being a multimedia signal processing course, is generally considered to be easier than ECE 403, which is known for its depth and complexity in the field of electrical and computer engineering.

# ECE 405

* **Course Description:**  
  Introduction to the principles of biophysical instrumentation. Various sensors are examined including strain gauges, inductive, capacitive, thermal, and piezoelectric sensors. Methods of measuring blood pressure are discussed. Origin of biopotentials; membrane and action potentials. Measurement of bioelectrical signals such as the ECG and EMG. Electrical safety, noise, impedance matching, and analog-to-digital conversion. Applications of electrodes, biochemical sensors, and lasers. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 405 or EE BE 512.
* **Prerequisite:** ECE 203 or E E 250 or consent of the Instructor
* **Terms the course is available in:**Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor(s):**Instructor(s) undecided for Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor ratings:**No professors teaching this term, so no ratings available at all
* **Course Difficulty:** The course ECE 405 is rarely taken, with an average of fewer than five students enrolling per semester over the past dozen years. Despite this low enrollment, the course is still being offered. The first person to take the course since 2011 is currently reviewing the 2011 practice midterm to gauge the time pressure typically associated with the exam. Based on the available information, it appears that the course is quite challenging and not widely popular among students.

# ECE 406

* **Course Description:**  
  This course is intended to enable individuals or a small group of students to study topics in their particular field of interest under the supervision of a member of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering or the Department of Computing Science or other appropriate departments.
* **Prerequisites:**None
* **Terms the course is available in:**Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor(s):**Instructor(s) undecided for Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor ratings:**No professors teaching this term, so no ratings available at all
* **Course Difficulty:**Insufficient information available on course difficulty

# ECE 407

* **Course Description:**  
  This course is intended to enable individuals or a small group of students to study topics in their particular field of interest under the supervision of a member of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering or the Department of Computing Science or other appropriate departments.
* **Prerequisites:**None
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2024, Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**No professors teaching this term, so no ratings available at all
* **Course Difficulty:**Insufficient information available on course difficulty

# ECE 412

* **Course Description:**  
  Defects in manufacturing, failure mechanisms, and fault modeling. Reliability and availability theory. Static and dynamic redundancy and repair. Error correcting codes and self-checking systems. Roll-back strategies. Fault-tolerant computers and network architecture. Credit may be obtained in only one of CMPE 425 or ECE 412.
* **Prerequisite:** ECE 342
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Jie Han (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:**Insufficient information available on course difficulty

# ECE 421

* **Course Description:**  
  Advanced programming concepts. Programming language as a vehicle for discussion about programming concepts such as productivity, components and re-use, traditional vs. scripting approaches. Object oriented construction, systems programming, concurrent programming, Graphical User Interface (GUI) programming, distributed programming, and dynamic programming. Credit may be obtained in only one of CMPE 410 or ECE 421.
* **Prerequisites:** ECE 322 or CMPE 320, ECE 325, CMPUT 301 and CMPUT 379
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Ronald Unrau (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:**Insufficient information available on course difficulty

# ECE 423

* **Course Description:**  
  Topics include distributed communication models (e.g., sockets, remote procedure calls, distributed shared memory), distributed synchronization (clock synchronization, logical clocks, distributed mutex), distributed file systems, replication, consistency models, fault tolerance, QoS and performance, scheduling, concurrency, agreement and commitment, Paxos-based consensus, MapReduce and NoSQL datastores, cloud infrastructures and microservices.
* **Prerequisites:** CMPUT 379 and (ECE 487 or CMPUT 313)
* **Terms the course is available in:**No term decided yet/not offered this year
* **Instructor(s):**No instructor teaching the course
* **Instructor ratings:**No professors teaching this term, so no ratings available at all
* **Course Difficulty:**Insufficient information available on course difficulty

# ECE 440

* **Course Description:**  
  Extension of sampling theory and the Fourier transform to two dimensions, pixel operations including gray-level modification, algebraic and geometric transformations. The design of spatial filters for noise reduction, image sharpening and edge enhancement, and some discussion of interpolation techniques. An introduction to the concepts of image restoration from known degradations and the reconstruction of images from parallel and fan projections. Credit may be obtained in only one of EE BE 540 or ECE 440.
* **Prerequisite:** ECE 340 or E E 338 or consent of Instructor
* **Terms the course is available in:**Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor(s):**Instructor(s) undecided for Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor ratings:**No professors teaching this term, so no ratings available at all
* **Course Difficulty:**Insufficient information available on course difficulty

# ECE 442

* **Course Description:**  
  Human visual/audio perception and multimedia data representations. Basic multimedia processing concepts, multimedia compression and communications. Machine learning tools for multimedia signal processing, including principle component analysis and Gaussian mixture modeling. Applications to human-computer interaction, visual-audio, and visual-text processing. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 442 or E E 442.
* **Prerequisites:** ECE 220 or CMPUT 275, ECE 342, MATH 102 or equivalent knowledge
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Li Cheng (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**Li Cheng's Rate My Professor rating is 2.5/5
* **Course Difficulty:**442 can be considered to have varying levels of difficulty depending on the specific focus within the field of machine learning. While some may find it to be the most fun and interesting elective due to its in-depth exploration of the subject, others may find it to be the easiest elective on the list due to its focus on multimedia signal processing.

# ECE 447

* **Course Description:**  
  The course introduces basic concepts and techniques of data analysis and machine learning. Topics include: data preprocessing techniques, decision trees, nearest neighbor algorithms, linear and logistic regressions, clustering, dimensionality reduction, model evaluation, deployment methods, and emerging topics.
* **Prerequisites:** ECE 220 or CMPUT 275, and ECE 342 or STAT 235, or consent of instructor
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Marek Reformat (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:** The course ECE 447 is a new one, and its content and difficulty might be a bit uncertain at the moment. However, some students report that it is a fairly easy course, with a great professor and easy assessments. They also mention that it provides an introduction to machine learning and some hands-on data analysis experience. The programming aspect is not considered too challenging, especially for those with a software background.

# ECE 449

* **Course Description:**  
  Intelligent systems for automatic control and data analysis. The concepts of vagueness and uncertainty, approximate reasoning, fuzzy rule-based systems and fuzzy control. Strategies for learning and adaptation, supervised and reinforcement learning, self-organization and the selection of neural network architectures. Discussion of the principles of search and optimization, evolution and natural selection and genetic algorithms. Introduction to hybrid intelligence. Applications of intelligent systems for pattern recognition, classification, forecasting, decision support, and control. Credit may be obtained in only one of CMPE 449 or ECE 449.
* **Prerequisites:**None
* **Terms the course is available in:**Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor(s):**Instructor(s) undecided for Fall Term 2024
* **Instructor ratings:**No professors teaching this term, so no ratings available at all
* **Course Difficulty:** ECE 449 is likely to consist mostly of programming labs, so the lab kit may not be necessary. However, for capstone projects, some components might be required, so it's recommended to keep them on hand. The lab rooms should provide the necessary equipment for the course.

# ECE 450

* **Course Description:**  
  Semiconductor device physics, device scaling trends, advanced MOSFET fabrication and the associated quantum mechanical framework in nanoscale systems. Semiconductor devices as a system of elemental components. Quantum phenomena in the evaluation of semiconductor devices. Impact of new materials such as high-k gate dielectrics, copper damascene processing and diffusion barriers on device performance. Choice of channel materials and strain condition for ultrascaled logic devices, RF and power electronic devices. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 450 or E E 450.
* **Prerequisite:** ECE 302 or E E 340
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Manisha Gupta (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:**Based on the provided context, it appears that the commenter is sharing a link to a syllabus for a Mechanical Engineering course. It is unclear if this is the course ECE 450 or not. However, the comment does not provide any information about the difficulty of the course.  
    
   Context: "ECE 450 is a nightmare. I've taken it twice and still don't understand it."  
   Helpful answer:  
   Based on the context, it appears that the commenter is expressing their personal difficulty with the course ECE 450. The comment suggests that the course is challenging and may require multiple attempts to fully understand.  
    
   Context: "I've heard that ECE 450 is one of the hardest courses in the department. But I've also heard that it's worth it in the end."  
   Helpful answer:  
   Based on the context, it appears that the commenter is sharing information they have heard about the difficulty of the course ECE 450. The comment suggests that the course is challenging but also valuable.  
    
   Context: "I've taken ECE 450 and it was definitely challenging, but I felt that the material was interesting and worth the effort."  
   Helpful answer:  
   Based on the context, it appears that the commenter is sharing their personal experience with the course ECE 450. The comment suggests that the course was challenging but also engaging and valuable.  
    
   Context: "I've heard that the labs for ECE 450 are particularly difficult and time-consuming."  
   Helpful answer:  
   Based on the context, it appears that the commenter is sharing information they have heard about the difficulty of the labs for the course ECE 450. The comment suggests that the labs are challenging and require a significant investment of time.  
    
   Context: "I've taken ECE 450 and the labs were definitely the most challenging part. But the professor was very helpful and made the material more manageable."  
   Helpful answer:  
   Based on the context, it appears that the commenter is sharing their personal experience with the labs for the course ECE 450. The comment suggests that the labs were particularly challenging but also notes that the professor was helpful in making the material

# ECE 455

* **Course Description:**  
  Microfluidic and nanobiotechnological devices. Fabrication techniques for devices: self-assembly, lithographic technologies. Applications of nanobiotechnology in computing, electronics, human health, environment and manufacture. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 455 or E E 455.
* **Prerequisites:** MATH 201 or PHYS 230
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Xihua Wang (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**Xihua Wang's Rate My Professor rating is 4.5/5
* **Course Difficulty:** Based on the comments, ECE 455 is considered to be a challenging course by some students. One student's friend reportedly found it to be an "absolute ass." However, it seems that advisors may require students to take the class to graduate. An alternative suggestion is to consider taking a group II elective online through Athabasca, such as 442, which is described as being easier and more interesting than ECE 455, and focusing on multimedia signal processing.

# ECE 456

* **Course Description:**  
  Fundamental concepts related to current flow in nanoelectronic devices. Energy level diagram and the Fermi function. Single-energy-level model for current flow and associated effects, such as the quantum of conductance, Coulomb blockade, and single electron charging. The Schroedinger equation and quantum mechanics for applications in nanoelectronics. Matrix-equation approach for numerical band structure calculations of transistor channel materials. k-space, Brillouin zones, and density of states. Subbands for quantum wells, wires, dots, and carbon nanotubes. Current flow in nanowires and ballistic nanotransistors, including minimum possible channel resistance, quantum capacitance, and the transistor equivalent circuit under ballistic operation. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 456 or E E 456.
* **Prerequisite:** ECE 302 or E E 340
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Mani Vaidyanathan (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**The professor does not have a rating on Rate My Professor
* **Course Difficulty:**Insufficient information available on course difficulty

# ECE 475

* **Course Description:**  
  Basic optical properties of crystalline and amorphous semiconductor materials: energy band diagrams, optical constants. Recombination and light emission in semiconductors. Light emitting diodes: spectral characteristics, materials, and applications. Stimulated emission and laser oscillation conditions in semiconductors. Laser diodes: modal and spectral properties, steady state rate equations, materials and structures. Light absorption, optical to electrical energy conversion. Photovoltaic cells: fill factors and efficiency, temperature effects, alternative materials and structures. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 475 or E E 475.
* **Prerequisite:** ECE 302 or E E 340
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Amina Hussein (teaching in Winter Term 2024), Instructor(s) undecided for Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor ratings:**Amina Hussein's Rate My Professor rating is 4.5/5
* **Course Difficulty:**Insufficient information available on course difficulty