Group 2 Electives

# CMPUT 313

* **Course Description:**  
  Introduction to computer communication networks; protocols for error and flow control; wired and wireless medium access protocols; routing and congestion control; internet architecture and protocols; multimedia transmission; recent advances in networking.
* **Prerequisites:** CMPUT 201 and 204 or 275; one of CMPUT 229, E E 380 or ECE 212; and STAT 252 or 266
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Ehab Elmallah (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 CMPUT 313 is considered to be difficult by some students, with one suggesting that a passing grade (D) might be a better option than failing (W). Another student mentions that the course material can be learned through online resources, implying that the in-class component may not be essential. However, the importance of maintaining a certain GPA for academic programs and the number of W's a student has are also factors to consider. Overall, the course is perceived as challenging and unengaging.

# CMPUT 379

* **Course Description:**  
  Introduction to the structure, components, and concepts behind modern general-purpose operating systems. Processes: process state transitions; operations on processes; interrupt processing; multiprocessor considerations; resource allocation; synchronization; critical sections and events; semaphores; deadlock: avoidance, detection, and recovery; memory management; virtual memory; paging and segmentation; page replacement strategies; working sets; demand paging; process scheduling; scheduling algorithms; file system functions; file organization; space allocation; virtual machines.
* **Prerequisites:** CMPUT 201 and 204, or 275; one of CMPUT 229, E E 380 or ECE 212
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Fall Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Ehab Elmallah (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:**379 is considered easier and more fun than 229 by some students, but it is still a challenging course. The material in 379, such as mutexes, semaphores, threads, and processes, is relevant and useful for various types of programming. However, if a student is not interested in this type of programming, they may find the course unnecessary. The assignments take a significant amount of time and regular studying is recommended to succeed in the course. The exams are not overly easy, even with good preparation.

# ECE 340

* **Course Description:**  
  Discrete time signals and systems; Sampled signals and sampling theorem, aliasing, A/D converter; Z-transform, stability analysis; Discrete-time Fourier transform; Discrete Fourier transform, leakage, spectral analysis; Digital filter design, filter structure. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 340 or E E 338.
* **Prerequisite:** ECE 240 or E E 238
* **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 comments suggest that the course ECE 340, taught by Marquez, is perceived as difficult by some students. They mention struggling with the midterms and feeling that they have learned little from the lectures. Some students report low grades and difficulty understanding the exam format. The comments also suggest that the professor, Marquez, may have different teaching styles depending on the format (online vs in-person) and that the exams may not include part marks. Overall, the comments indicate that the course is challenging for some students.

# ECE 370

* **Course Description:**  
  Review of vector calculus, electrostatics, and magnetostatics. Electric and magnetic fields in material media, including polarization mechanisms and general boundary conditions. Solutions to static field problems. Maxwell's equations and waves in free space, dielectrics and conducting media. Reflection and refraction, standing waves. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 370 or E E 315.
* **Prerequisites:** MATH 102, 209 and PHYS 230
* **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 370 is reportedly difficult, with some students expressing frustration towards the professor's teaching methods and perceived bias. The professor is said to not teach effectively in class, not provide notes, and have a high ego. The passing mark for the course is unclear, but students suggest using the textbook for guidance. The textbooks used for the course may vary, with some emphasizing integral forms and others differential forms of Maxwell's equations. Some students have found the midterms to be easier than the final exam, which was reportedly challenging and may not have had a clear solution. Overall, the course is perceived as difficult.

# 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 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 422

* **Course Description:**  
  Causes and consequences of computer system failure. Structure of fault-tolerant computer systems. Methods for protecting software and data against computer failure. Quantification of system reliability. Introduction to formal methods for safety-critical systems. Computer and computer network security. Corequisite: ECE 487. Credit may be obtained in only one of CMPE 420 or ECE 422.
* **Prerequisite:** CMPUT 301
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**An Ran Chen (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 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 introduction to machine learning, with a focus on data analysis. The course is reportedly disorganized but the professor is great and assessments are considered easy. The programming aspect is not particularly challenging for those with a software background. Overall, the course is relatively easy.

# 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:**Insufficient information available on course difficulty

# ECE 452

* **Course Description:**  
  Introduction to advanced numerical methods such as finite-difference, finite-element and spectral-domain techniques for solving partial differential equations. Simulations of nanoscale systems involving multiphysics or coupled differential equations involving electron and thermal transport phenomena, electrodynamics, MEMS, and process simulation, graphical methods for 3D visualization of simulation data. Examples from applied areas of nanoengineering to demonstrate computational methods for understanding complex physical phenomena and for designing and simulating nanoscale devices and systems. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 452 or E E 445.
* **Prerequisites:** ECE 341 or MATH 309 or 311
* **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 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 described it as "absolute ass." However, it seems that advisors may require students to take the course in order to graduate. An alternative suggestion is to consider taking a group II elective online through Athabasca, such as 442, which is reportedly easier and more interesting, 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:** The course ECE 456 in the Faculty of Engineering does not clearly state in the syllabus when a particular assignment is due. The student was told that it is due on March 11, in the evening, but this information was not included in the official course materials. The course may be considered moderately difficult due to the lack of clear communication regarding deadlines.

# ECE 487

* **Course Description:**  
  Network topologies. Layered architectures and the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) reference model. Peer-to-peer protocols, medium access control protocols, and local area network standards. Packet switched networks and routing, the TCP/IP suite of protocols. Credit may be obtained in only one of ECE 487, CMPUT 313 or CMPE 487.
* **Prerequisites:**None
* **Terms the course is available in:**Winter Term 2024, Winter Term 2025
* **Instructor(s):**Hai Jiang (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 final exam in ECE 487 contained questions that were not covered in the lectures, making it a challenging assessment for students.