Module 1B

Modern Navigation Systems

Course Logistics and Grading

Course Logistics

- Asynchronous teaching material will be posted to the Blackboard/Learn site for the course
  - This will be comprised of 14 modules (1 per week)
- There will be weekly synchronous on-line “office hours” sessions
  - These will use AdobeConnect
  - The sessions will be recorded for asynchronous viewing
  - Additional sessions will be added on request

Course Logistics

- There are 14 modules
  - One per week
- Each module will contain the following
  - Module summary (.docx)
  - Multiple Powerpoint presentation files (.ppt)
    - These will be numbered Mod 1A, 1B, etc.
    - The homework assignment for each of these sub-modules will be included on one or more slides at the end of each .ppt file
  - A video presentation for each ppt file (.MP4)
  - A separate listing of each assignment in the assignments section of Blackboard/Learn
  - Additional, supplementary files and presentations

Online discussion

- There will be one or more online discussion forums per module using the discussion section of Blackboard
  - o Students are encouraged to create new threads and respond to discussion and question posted by the other students

Contacting the instructor

- The instructor can be reached:
  - By email at Dan.Jablonski@jhuapl.edu
  - By phone at 240-228-6907
    - Please leave a voice message, which will automatically be forwarded to the instructor's email address
- Do not hesitate to use email and phone
  - If you don't get a timely response, please resend the email or repeat the telephone call
    - Things sometimes get missed in the ever-increasing daily swarm of emails

Textbooks

- Required and recommended texts are discussed in the next sub-module (Mod 1C)

Grading

- Graded homework assignments will account for 70% of the grade
- A final project report and presentation (30%) (see Mod 1D)

Submission of assignments

- Assignments should typically be submitted online as a **single** file (.doc or .pdf)
  - Handwritten submissions are perfectly acceptable (e.g., scanned pdf files); this is not a typing course
  - The instructor can read *cursive*
- For some assignments, an executable .xls file may be requested or permitted

Submission Deadlines

- Due to student travel, personal obligations, work schedules, etc., students may find it difficult to meet weekly deadlines consistently
- Assignments will typically be due 2 weeks after the module is released
  - This allows time to ask questions during an AdobeConnect session or via the discussion fora
- An additional week on an as-needed basis for turning in assignments is fine, and does not require contacting the instructor in advance

Resubmission of work

- Some of the assignments will be challenging, confusing, and frustrating
- The goal is to learn the material, and this is not a “race to the top”
- Resubmission of assignments to correct errors or extend the scope of the work is permitted and encouraged
- The resubmission feature on Blackboard will typically be activated in advance, thus allowing multiple submissions for each assignment, as appropriate

The “Grader”

- A recent graduate of the program, who has taken this course, will assist in grading student assignments
- Don’t fret if you feel the grader has overlooked or mis-intepreted some feature of your work
  - Simply send the instructor an email calling attention to this at your convenience

The grading rubric

- A simple 0 – 10 grading rubric is employed
  - 10 means an assignment represents work above and beyond the call of duty
  - 8 means the work is satisfactory and meets the requirements of the course
  - 6 means that there is room for improvement (i.e., that the work is B, rather than A, quality work)
  - A 5 or less should be considered to be an incomplete, and the work should be resubmitted
- The grader will provide comments in the comment block on Learn

An additional feature of Blackboard

- Blackboard/Learn presents the grader with a preview of the submitted file
- This feature often corrupts the display of equations
- However, the equations are properly represented when the submitted file is downloaded
- Thus, don’t fret if the preview of your own file looks damaged

Summary

- The work should be fun
- When you find yourself getting frustrated, which will sometimes happen when you are forced to confront the demons of actually using your mathematical skills, take a break and relax
- Don’t hesitate to post detailed questions to the discussion forum for the module in question, or to contact the instructor
- Venting is fine, and mistakes are inevitable
- Note that:
  - Some of the state borders in the United States are in the wrong place because of mathematical errors
  - There are GPS receivers and aircraft autopilots that still contain errors in the algorithm and software
    - Divide-by-zero and inverse arc-tangent errors are almost endemic!

End of Mod 1B