

# ECE438L - Introduction, Guidelines, and Ethics.

February 27, 2007

## 1 Introduction

This document contains the basic rules and guidelines for performing and reporting your ECE438 laboratories. The following additional documents also need to be read before starting any laboratories. They can be found on the [VISE home page](#) .

- **VISE laboratory rules** - This document describes the general rules that must be followed while using the laboratory facilities.
- **VISE account initialization** - This document describes how to properly configure your environment on the VISE computers for performing the laboratories.
- **VISE laboratory Printing** - This document explains how to use printers in the VISE lab.

## 2 Laboratory Course Policies

1. Each lab period will start with a brief quiz that may cover material from current or previous laboratories or course lectures. Therefore, the lab should be read before coming to the section meeting.
2. You are required to be in attendance at the beginning of each lab. A quiz will be given during the first ten minutes. You will receive a zero for the quiz if you miss it.
3. You must stay until the end of your lab section or until you hand your completed lab to the TA. You may leave early if your lab is completely finished and handed in. Otherwise, your individual lab report score will be reduced at a rate of ten points per hour for any time that you miss from the lab (coming late, leaving early, McDonald's break, etc.).

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Questions or comments concerning this laboratory should be directed to Prof. Charles A. Bouman, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette IN 47907; (765) 494-0340; bouman@ecn.purdue.edu

4. If you need to miss a lab due to a job interview, you will need to provide the TA with documentation. If the interview is taking place on campus, inform the TA of the time and place of the interview, and the company with which you are interviewing. For a plant trip, provide the TA with either plane tickets or your written invitation.
5. If you completely miss the lab, leaving your lab partner without a partner, you will have to do the lab completely on your own. In addition, the absence penalty (see above) will be applied to your score.
6. Your lab report is due at the beginning of your lab section, before you take the quiz. Late lab reports will be penalized ten percent per day late. The weekend will count as one day.
7. If you are working with a lab partner, you will only need to submit one lab report for the group. However, each student should work through each exercise in the lab. In other words, the lab exercises should not be divided up between you and your partner.

### 3 Laboratory Ethics

Students are expected to behave ethically both in and out of the lab. Unethical behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Possession of another person's laboratory solutions from the current or previous years.
- Reference to, or use of another person's laboratory solutions from the current or previous years.
- Submission of work that is not done by your laboratory group.
- Allowing another person to copy your laboratory solutions or work.
- Cheating on quizzes.

The ECE438 laboratory experience is meant to strengthen and deepen the student's understanding of basic concepts taught in the ECE438 lectures and to help the student develop practical skills in applying the concepts taught in the ECE438 course. The rules of laboratory ethics are designed to facilitate these goals.

We emphasize that that laboratory teaching assistants are available throughout the week to help the student both understand the basic concepts and answer the questions being asked in the laboratory exercises. By performing the laboratories independently, students will likely learn more and improve their performance in the course as a whole.

**At the professor's discretion, unethical behavior will result in a failing grade for the entire course, a reduction of the course letter grade, or a zero score.**

In addition, it is the responsibility of the student to make sure that the content of their graded laboratories is not distributed to other students. All students should make sure that

their computer files for laboratories are not publicly accessible. The command for restricting read access to a directory in Unix is:

```
chmod og-rx my_directory
```

If there is any question as to whether a given action might be considered unethical, please see the professor or the TA before you engage in such actions.

## 4 Laboratory Report Guidelines

This section describes how lab reports should be prepared.

1. Reports must be typewritten or neatly printed. Points will be subtracted for sloppy appearance.
2. Each lab report should have a cover sheet. The cover sheet should include your names, date, lab number and title, and especially your *lab section number*. You should also indicate the percent contribution from each lab partner, along with a signature. A sample cover sheet can be found here: [cover.pdf](#).
3. Each page of your lab report **must contain the last names of all members in your lab group**. You must list group names in the following ways:
  - (a) For Matlab plots - use the `gtext('names')` Matlab command.
  - (b) For code listings - use a comment line `%names`
  - (c) For other sections - write out names by hand or in type font.

**Lab reports that do not conform to this policy will not be accepted.**

4. Your report need only contain items requested in the *In-Lab Report* boxes. All questions should be answered in detail. You do not need to rephrase the lab procedure.
5. Make sure all plots are clearly titled and axes are labeled.
6. All Matlab code should be properly commented. Make sure all Matlab code printouts indicate the purpose of the function or script.

## 5 Lab Grade Breakdown

70% Lab Reports

30% Weekly Quizzes