

# Policies and Norms for the course ICOM5047 – Design Project in Computer Engineering

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## 1 General Norms

Eating, drinking or smoking is not allowed in the laboratory. Failing to comply with this norm will result in access to the laboratory being suspended.

Access to the laboratory is exclusive to students registered in the course, faculty members and authorized personnel and only for activities and work directly related to the course. A student or team requiring to invite any other person should request authorization in writing to the professors and should specify the name of the person(s), the date and time the person(s) will be visiting the laboratory, the expected duration of and the justification for the visit. No visitors will be allowed until duly authorized by the professors. Failing to comply with this norm will result in access to the laboratory being revoked.

Students can request equipment, devices and other elements for their projects. Students should fill a request form and sign it. The student signing the request form is responsible for the good care of all the elements loaned him/her. Damaged and lost elements will be replaced at the student's expense. If any of the devices, equipment or elements changes hands, students should inform the teaching assistants or the professors in writing about any such changes. Otherwise, the student who signed the request form will be held responsible for all the elements assigned to him/her.

After the final presentation, the students should return to the laboratory within the next two business days all the elements, devices, and equipment assigned to him/her. Failure to comply with this may result in disciplinary action against the student or his/her UPRM account being declared delinquent.

Every effort will be made to assign each team a locker in the laboratory. Students should buy a lock and provide a copy of the key to the professors or the teaching assistants. This copy of the key will only be used in case of emergency and will be returned to the team after all the elements, devices and equipment assigned to the team have been returned.

## 2 Attendance

Attendance to class and team meetings is compulsory<sup>1</sup>. Arriving to class or team meetings 10 or more minutes late is considered late arrival. Three late arrivals is equivalent to one absence.

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<sup>1</sup> Class attendance and examinations. *Undergraduate Catalog 2009-2010*. University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus. Page 69.

Four or more absences to class without reasonable excuse constitute a grade of F in the course. More than eight total absences to class constitute a grade of F in the course. A student with more than three absences to team meetings without reasonable excuses may be dismissed from the team with all the corresponding consequences described in section 3 below.

Excuses should be submitted within the following week after returning to class. Medical excuses should have printed the name of the physician, the office address and the telephone number(s). The professors may verify the veracity of any excuse at their own discretion.

Students are responsible for making the arrangements for duly justified absences to oral presentations or practical demonstrations<sup>1</sup>. Conditions for makeup presentations or practical demonstrations should be agreed upon with the professors and when necessary with the teammates.

### 3 Accountability and performance

All the teams should maintain a Web log (blog) which serves as a journal of the team activities, work, discussions and decisions. Professors should be given access to the team's blog. Team meeting notes and attendance control should be posted on the blog.

Every student is accountable to his/her teammates. A student with poor performance in his/her work may be dismissed from his/her team. Dismissal of a student from the team can be the result of:

- individual student evaluation by the professor(s);
- request in writing by his/her teammates; or
- any other just and adequate procedure.

A request to dismiss a student from a team should present evidence of the student's poor performance, prejudice to the teamwork or unjustified absences to team meetings, but the decision of his/her dismissal is the sole decision and responsibility of the professors, based on the evidence and arguments of all the parties involved.

A student dismissed from his/her team will have his/her access to the course laboratory removed and should return all the elements, devices and equipment assigned to him/her no later than one day after his/her dismissal. Failure to comply with this may result in a disciplinary action or his/her UPRM account being declared delinquent. A student dismissed from a team will obtain a grade of F in the course<sup>2</sup>.

### 4 Reports, presentations and practical demonstration examinations

The project proposal, progress and project report should be submitted on the date specified in the course calendar (<http://ece.uprm.edu/~icom5047/calendar.html>), unless a date change is agreed upon with the professors. Every delayed submission will result in a penalty of 25% reduction of the full grade per calendar day of delay. After four calendar days of delay the grade will be 0.

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<sup>2</sup> Evaluation of students's performance. *Undergraduate Catalog 2009-2010*. University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus. Page 69.

Practical demonstrations should comply with the requirements established by the professors for each one and should present at least the outcomes described in section 4.1 below, on the dates specified in the course calendar and at the times agreed upon between each team and the professors. Delayed demonstrations will result in a penalty of 25% reduction of the full grade for each additional opportunity. After four opportunities the demonstration grade will be 0.

Absence to a presentation or practical demonstration without reasonable excuse will result in a grade of 0 in the presentation or demonstration.

#### 4.1 Expected demonstrations outcomes

There will be three practical demonstrations in the semester and the expected results in each one are specified below:

- First practical demonstration: Complete detailed design of all the components both hardware and software; bill of materials and some implementations.
- Second practical demonstration: Full implementation of all the components and modules of the system, individually tested and ready for integration and final testing. Students are expected to explain in detail all the technical aspects of their module(s) specifications including interfacing with the rest of the system, their designs, implementations, and individual tests performed. Students should be able to explain any difficulties or problems faced with their project and how they were solved.
- Third and final practical demonstration: System fully integrated, functional and tested. Students are expected to explain in detail all the technical aspects of the system specifications, design, implementation, integration and testing. Students should provide testing evidence and data together with their analysis, and be able to explain any difficulties or problems faced with their project and how they were solved.

#### 4.2 Grading of practical demonstrations

Practical demonstrations are at the very heart of this course and thus are a very significant part of the students' grade in the course. Therefore, a student's performance in each practical demonstration may become a deciding factor between her/his passing or failing the course. In every practical demonstration students are **individually evaluated and graded** by the team of the course professors. At the professors' discretion, the teaching assistants may become part of the evaluating team. Other persons may be invited to assist in the evaluation of a project when there is a need for expertise in a particular area. Evaluation and grading criteria will be published on the course website at least one week before the practical demonstration date.

In all the demonstrations, every student is expected to have a sound knowledge of the whole system, and detailed and in-depth knowledge of his/her assigned components or modules. The first two practical demonstrations will be graded according to the achievement of the outcomes described in section 4.1 above.

For the final demonstration, the system should be fully functional, integrated and tested according to specifications. **Partial credit will not be given for isolated components or modules that are working.** If the system is not fully functional, integrated and tested as specified, the demonstration grade will be 0 and 75 points will be subtracted from the final project report.

## 5 Teamwork and Peer evaluation

The performance of each student in a design team will be peer-reviewed by his/her teammates three times during the semester. The proposal and reports grades of a student will be the group's document grade scaled by the up-to-date student's peer evaluation and the class instructor's evaluation. For example, if a student's project reports receive a score of 95 (A) from the professor, but the student receives a poor evaluation from his/her teammates of 65% and a lab evaluation by the professor of 60% because he/she never showed up to the lab among other things, the student's final grade in the project would be  $95 \cdot (0.5 \cdot 0.65 + 0.5 \cdot 0.60) = 59.375$  (F). Hence, all students are strongly encouraged to contribute to all aspects of the project.

## 6 Public health measures regarding the virus AH1 N1

Following the instructions by the Federal, State and University authorities to prevent the spread of the virus AH1 N1, a student presenting the symptoms of this disease should stay at home, not attend public places and call his/her primary doctor. The student should inform the professors by telephone or email of his/her condition and must not return to class until a physician certifies in writing that the student is back in a health condition suitable to attend public places.

If the symptoms appear while on campus, the student should go immediately to Medical Services or to his/her primary doctor and must not return to class until a physician certifies in writing that the student is back in a health condition suitable to attend public places.