



DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER ENGINEERING

WRAP-UP SESSION

Spring 2013

Course: CR246 / ECE406 Course name: Digital Design II / Advanced Digital Design

Instructor: James Cavallo

HIGH POINTS OF THE COURSE (“SUCCESSSES”):

Pedagogy employed: The course was a mixture of VHDL taught in a standard lecture format, and advanced digital design concepts taught in the context of projects.

Homework: The course homework included five problem sets that involved writing VHDL code, building block diagrams based on given VHDL code and sketching waveforms, as well as three projects. The projects involved coding, verifying, and implementing circuits on a development board, based on a block diagram and instructions provided.

Exams and Projects: The students were given a final exam and a final project. The grades on the final exam were slightly below expectations and so a 5 point curve was applied. Each group did a good job on the final project.

Student Attendance and Performance: One student missed several classes due to frequent business travel, otherwise there were very few attendance exceptions and the grades were good.

Other: All course material including the all in class examples, completed homework assignments, solutions, and notes were made available on Mentor which the students seemed to appreciate.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED:

Textbook: No textbook was used for this course.

Assignments: For the group assignments, there seemed to be one student in each group that did the majority of the work while the others did not contribute their fair share. For the individual assignments the course policy precludes the students from collaborating, and there were a group of students who needed to be reminded of this several times.

Instruction method: No significant problems relating to my teaching method.

Course prerequisites: The course prerequisites were sufficient.

Student feedback: The student feedback was very positive.

Student Performance: All of the students did reasonably well.

Grade distribution: One student got an A, the rest got A- or B+.

ACTION STEPS

Course Portfolio: No changes recommended.

Change course prerequisites? No changes recommended.

Change course content? No changes recommended.

Change course objectives and/or outcomes? No changes recommended.

Recommendations for further improvement: None.

INSTRUCTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Please comment on any problems that were encountered because of inadequacies in the classroom environment, lack of supplies, or inadequate service from staff:

No significant problems were encountered.

Were the problems brought to the attention of the Dean's office? N/A

Were the problems corrected in a timely fashion? N/A