Course Staff

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Co-Convener: Dr Henry Yang
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Dr. Jason Hwang
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Teaching Assistant: Mr. Ross Leon
(ross.leon@unsw.edu.au)
Office location: Australian National Fabrication Facility
Level 3, Newton Building

Consultations: You are encouraged to ask questions on the course material before, during and after the lecture class times. Alternatively, queries or concerns about this course can be directed to the Teaching Assistants Mr. Anderson West (laboratory), Mr. Alexis Shaw (laboratory) or Mr. Ross Leon (all other matters) via Moodle, email contact or during prearranged consultation times. ALL email enquiries should be made from your student email address with ELEC4603 in the subject line; otherwise they will not be answered.

Keeping Informed: Announcements may be made during classes, via email (to your student email address) and/or via online learning and teaching platforms – in this course, we will use Moodle https://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au/login/index.php. Please note that you will be deemed to have received this information, so you should take careful note of all announcements.

Course Summary

Contact Hours
The course consists of 2 hours of lectures each week, 1 hour of tutorial and 3 hours of laboratory every two weeks. Tutorials on the odd (even) week will commence on the third (fourth) week of term. Laboratories on the even (odd) week will commence on the second (third) week of term. Students should check their myUNSW timetable to see which group they have been allocated to and the corresponding time schedule/location for the Tutorial/Laboratory session.
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<th></th>
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<td>CivEng G8</td>
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### Assessment scheme

Assessments in this subject will be based on the following scheme:

- **Laboratory (2 experiments)**: 20%
- **Mid-term Examination**: 10%
- **Assignment (1)**: 10%
- **Final Examination**: 60%

### Indicative Lecture/Tutorial/Laboratory Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Tutorials</th>
<th>Experiments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>28 Feb</td>
<td>Introduction, Course outline</td>
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<td><em>Section 1 (Semiconductor Basics)</em></td>
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<td>– band structure, doping</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>– Intrinsic/extrinsic Si, 1-D semiconductor eqn.</td>
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<td><em>Section 2 (Carrier density)</em></td>
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<td>– carrier density, Fermi function, law of mass action</td>
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<td>14 March</td>
<td><em>Section 3 (PN junctions)</em></td>
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<td>– depletion layer, band diagrams</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>– PN junctions: derivation of IV characteristic</td>
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<td>28 March</td>
<td>– PN diode breakdown, Avalanche, Zener diodes</td>
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<td>– capacitance, non-idealities</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>11 April</td>
<td><em>Section 4 (BJTs)</em></td>
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<td>– operation &amp; basic concepts</td>
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<td>– derivation of IV characteristics</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>18 April</td>
<td>– Ebers-Moll model</td>
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<td>– non-idealities in BJTs</td>
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<td><em>Section 5 (MOSFETs)</em></td>
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<td>– Operating principles, threshold voltage</td>
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**Mid-session break (30 Mar - 8 Apr)**

- **Tutorial-2**: Diode design and Thermal effects
- **Experiment-2**: High-Frequency Properties of Transistors (2 lab sessions)
- **Tutorial-3**: Frequency dependent Parameters of BJTs

*(Due to a public holiday on 30 March, the Friday odd week lab of that day is pushed back to Friday week 7)*
Context and Aims

Solid State Electronics expands significantly on the simple models of electronic devices studied in ELEC2133 (Analogue Electronics) and uses concepts of solid-state physics learned in PHYS1231 (Physics 1B). It provides a detailed understanding of the physics, design, operation and limitations of important solid state electronic and optoelectronic devices used by electrical and telecommunications engineers. It is highly relevant for electrical engineers who intend to pursue further studies of integrated circuit design and/or microfabrication.

This subject endeavours to teach students not only just how these electronic devices operate, but also develop some insight into the underlying solid-state physics. The topics to be covered include the following:

- Band-structure and doping of semiconductors.
- Drift-Diffusion Equations; Density of states; Fermi function; Law of Mass Action.
- PN Junctions: Derivation of I-V characteristics.
- PN Junctions: Capacitance; Breakdown; Non-idealities.
- Bipolar Junction Transistor (BJT): Operation principles.
- BJT: Derivation of I-V characteristics.
- BJT: Ebers-Moll model; Non-idealities.
- MOSFET: Derivation of I-V characteristics.
- MOSFET: Structure; Threshold Voltage; Enhancement- & Depletion-mode.
- Transistors for Digital Logic: TTL, ECL, CMOS.
- Optoelectronic & Photonic Devices: Direct Vs Indirect Band-gap devices.
- LEDs; Semiconductor Lasers; Photovoltaic Cells.
- Principles and key technologies involved in microfabrication of integrated circuits.
Microfabrication of: MOSFETs; CMOS; BJT.

At the end of the course students should:

a) understand the underlying operating principles of important microelectronic and photonic devices, such as MOSFETs, BJT and semiconductor lasers;
b) understand the limits of ideal “black-box” models of devices, and predict the effect of these non-idealities on real circuits and systems;
c) have an appreciation of the principles of microfabrication relevant to integrated circuit manufacture, and how these affect device performance.

Course Details

Credits
This is a 6 UoC course and the expected workload is 10–12 hours per week throughout the 13 week semester.

Relationship to Other Courses
This is a 4th year undergraduate course in the School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications. It is an elective course for computer, telecommunications, and electrical engineering students (including combined degrees).

Pre-requisites and Assumed Knowledge
The prerequisite for Solid State Electronics is ELEC2133 Analogue Electronics. It will be assumed that students have mastered this subject. Students are strongly advised to revise any unfamiliar topics in their own time.

Following Courses
The course is a pre-requisite for the postgraduate level course ELEC9704 VLSI Technology.

Learning outcomes
On successful completion the student should be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts involved in semiconductor device operation and their characteristics.
2. Perform simple analysis of semiconductor devices to derive basic I-V characteristics.
3. Predict the effect of device design variations on device performance.
4. Assess the relative advantages/disadvantages of different classes of electronic and optoelectronic devices for particular applications.
5. Design simple optoelectronic communication systems.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the technologies used in integrated circuit manufacture and the impact of these technologies on device design and performance.

This course is designed to provide the above learning outcomes which arise from targeted graduate capabilities listed in Appendix A. The targeted graduate capabilities broadly support the UNSW and Faculty of Engineering graduate attributes (listed in Appendix B). This course also addresses the Engineers Australia (National Accreditation Body) Stage I competency standard as outlined in Appendix C.

Syllabus
Band-structure and doping of semiconductors. Drift-Diffusion Equations; Density of states; Fermi function; Law of Mass Action. PN Junctions: Derivation of I-V characteristics. PN

Teaching Strategies

Delivery Mode
The teaching in this course aims at establishing a good fundamental understanding of the areas covered using:

- Formal face-to-face lectures, which provide you with a focus on the core analytical material in the course, together with qualitative, alternative explanations to aid your understanding;
- Tutorials, which allow for exercises in problem solving and allow time for you to resolve problems in understanding of lecture material;
- Laboratory sessions, which support the formal lecture material and also provide you with practical construction, measurement and debugging skills;
- Assignment, in which student can apply what they learnt in class to solve real-world engineering design problems.

Learning in this course
You are expected to attend all lectures, tutorials, laboratories in order to maximise learning. You must prepare well for your laboratory classes and your lab work will be assessed. In addition to the lecture notes, you should read relevant sections of the recommended text. Reading additional texts will further enhance your learning experience. Group learning is also encouraged. UNSW assumes that self-directed study of this kind is undertaken in addition to attending face-to-face classes throughout the course.

Tutorial classes
You should attempt all of your problem sheet questions in advance of attending the tutorial classes. The importance of adequate preparation prior to each tutorial cannot be overemphasized, as the effectiveness and usefulness of the tutorial depends to a large extent on this preparation. Group learning is encouraged. Answers for these questions will be discussed during the tutorial class and the tutor will cover the more complex questions in the tutorial class. The solution for tutorial questions may not be made available on the web, so it is worthwhile for you to attend your tutorial and actively involve in discussion to gain maximum benefit from the tutorial session.

Laboratory program
You are required to attend laboratory throughout the semester. Laboratory attendance WILL be kept, and you MUST attend at least 80% of labs.

Electronics is very much an experiment-oriented subject. Successful practical implementation of designs and effective reporting of results are of crucial importance in developing your skills as a competent electronics engineer.

The experimental component of this course is complementary to the lectures. In it, students will have the opportunity to gain experience with the use of optoelectronic devices, as well as
to characterise the dc parameters of a BJT and a MOSFET, and explore their high-frequency properties.

A pass grade in all laboratory experiments is required to pass this course overall. All of the experiments are compulsory and are worth, in total, 20%.

The preliminary preparation for each laboratory experiment consists in reading through the laboratory notes and familiarising yourself with the concepts involved. Ensure that you understand what each experiment is about before the relevant laboratory session.

Keeping systematic notes is an important aspect of experimental technique. Your laboratory notebooks should be the primary record of your design and calculations and results of your experiments. The preliminary preparation should be done in the laboratory notebook. Results, measurement and observations should be recorded directly into the notebook as they are gathered (and not on loose scraps of paper). Except when drawing circuits and waveforms, pen must be used rather than pencil. There is no need to do a ‘draft’ and then a ‘good copy’ — this merely wastes time.

The notes for laboratory experiments may be downloaded from the course web-site. The experiments are:

Exp 1. Fibre-Optic Communication (2 lab sessions)
Exp 2. High-Frequency Properties of Transistors (2 lab sessions)

Laboratory sessions are scheduled every alternate week, i.e., you attend a laboratory period every odd week or every even week, depending on your lab allocation. Showing up in the wrong lab session for the first experiment may result in a penalty on your lab mark. Please consult your myUNSW timetable before hand to find out which lab group you have been allocated to.

Please take careful note of the laboratory experiment completion deadlines.

Laboratory Arrangement

Each student will be allocated a bench number. It is essential that students conduct their experiment at the allocated bench position; otherwise they will be marked absent. Work in a group of 2, however each student must have their own lab book record and will be assessed individually.

You are expected to work on the experiment on your own and copying is an infringement of university examination regulations. Discussion on experimental work is encouraged, but over zealous assistance should be avoided.

Laboratory Exemption

There is no laboratory exemption for this course. Regardless of whether equivalent labs have been completed in previous courses, all students enrolled in this course for Semester 1, 2016 must take the labs. If, for medical reasons, (note that a valid medical certificate must be provided) you are unable to attend a lab, you will need to apply for a catch-up lab during another lab time, as agreed by the teaching assistant Mr. Ross Leon or Mr. Anderson West.

Assessment

The assessment scheme in this course reflects the intention to assess your learning progress through the semester. Ongoing assessment occurs through the lab checkpoints, assignment and final exam. There will be NO mid-semseter exam, laboratory exam in this course. All parts
of the assessment will be marked according to the amount of work done, the correctness of
the work, and the displayed knowledge and understanding of the topic.

You must pass (attain more than 50% of the total marks) both the laboratory component
and the exam component to pass the course.

Laboratory Assessment (20%)
Demonstrators will strictly follow the guideline below during the assessment:
1) All preliminary preparation, results of experimental measurements and discussion of results
must be neatly recorded in a laboratory book. Work presented in loose sheets will NOT
be marked.

2) Assessment of your work will be conducted orally. It is the student’s responsibility to
organise the documentation of his laboratory work in a fashion that shows his/her
understanding and achievements. During the oral examination, students are expected to
demonstrate the operation of their circuit. Do not dismantle the circuit until you have
received a written clearance in your laboratory note book that the assessment is complete.

3) Each experiment will be marked out of 20 points.

4) Marking will only be done during the laboratory period by the demonstrators present. It is
the responsibility of the students to make sure that his/her mark is recorded by the
demonstrator. Experiments will only be marked during a student’s assigned lab time. Do
not attend another lab group to get marked unless permission has been given by a
demonstrator.

Deadline for Marking of Laboratory Work
The laboratory experiments for this subject have to be completed and marked by the following
dates.

Exp 1: Even-Week Groups: Week4/Odd-Week Group: Week5)
Exp 2: Even-Week Groups: Week8/Odd-Week Group: Week9)

Each laboratory experiment is worth 20 points. If you are late by less than 1 week, 5 points
will be deducted. A further 5 points will be deducted for each additional week late. Even if you
have no points left, you must still satisfactorily complete the laboratory work to pass the
course. Note that the deadlines merely represent the last day an experiment can be marked
without penalty.

Assignment (10%)
The assignment allows self-directed study leading to the solution of partly structured problems.
Marks will be assigned according to how completely and correctly the problems have been
addressed and the understanding of the course material demonstrated by the report.

There will be one compulsory written assignment. It is expected that the students complete
assignments on their own. Students found guilty of academic misconduct, including
excessive collaboration, copying another’s assignment, or allowing one’s assignment
to be copied by another student, will not receive any marks for that assignment. In
addition, a more severe penalty may be imposed.

Late submissions will attract a penalty of 10% per day (including weekends). All
assignment report, both hand written or typed, should be carefully converted into pdf file and
forward it to teaching assistant Mr. Ross Leon (ross.leon@unsw.edu.au) through email.
Before submitting your report, make sure of the following:

- Report is complete, any missing page due to scan will **NOT** be assessed. Late penalty will be applied if the missing page is submitted after the deadline.
- Report is reasonably easy to read, typing report is not compulsory but make sure your answer is as neat as possible.
- Make sure the school individual assignment cover sheet is signed and attached at the first page. The report without cover sheet will **NOT** be assessed. You may find the cover sheet through the link:

**Mid-term Exam (10%)**
There will be a closed-book 1-hour written exam near the mid-session break. More information about the mid-term will be available in the first few weeks of the course.

**Final Exam (60%)**
The exam in this course is a standard closed-book 2 hour written examination. University approved calculators are allowed. The examination tests analytical and critical thinking and general understanding of the course material in a controlled fashion. Questions may be drawn from any aspect of the course (including laboratory), unless specifically indicated otherwise by the lecturer. Marks will be assigned according to the correctness of the responses. Please note that you must pass the final exam in order to pass the course.

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**Course Resources**

**Textbooks**
The textbook set for this course is:

- P621.3815/308 (UNSW Library)

An alternative textbook, which covers much of the same material, but with greater emphasis on semiconductor fabrication, is:

- P621.38152/120 (UNSW Library)

In addition to the textbooks, which combine the semiconductor devices and electronics, other reference books include semiconductor device textbooks and electronic circuit textbooks. For semiconductor devices, a series of books which covers operation of devices in a clear, readable manner with many good analogies and explanations is *The Modular Series on Solid State Devices* edited by R.F. Pierret and G.W. Nuedeck. Each volume is short, covering a specific topic only. The volumes of interest are I, II, III and IV. Although the material is covered at a basic level, the treatment is very complete and, consequently, for this course, not all sections are relevant.
The material covered by textbooks dealing exclusively with electronics circuits has remained relatively unchanged over many years and consequently there are many well-polished textbooks. Three of the more popular ones are listed below. Of the three, Millman & Grabel has a more theoretical and complete approach, particularly for feedback and frequency response. Sedra & Smith has the best coverage of device fabrication. Burns & Bond approaches electronic circuits from a semiconductor physics perspective and was formerly the textbook for this course. All three textbooks have some coverage of digital circuits.


Finally, for those interested in designing and building realistic functioning circuits, a variety of books exists which give examples of many types of circuits. Several such books exists, but a well-respected and popular anthology of circuits with many useful practical tips is *The Art of Electronics*.


On-line resources

Moodle

As a part of the teaching component, Moodle will be used to disseminate teaching materials and host forums. Assessment marks will also be made available via Moodle: [https://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au/login/index.php](https://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au/login/index.php).

Mailing list

Announcements concerning course information will be given in the lectures and/or on Moodle and/or via email (which will be sent to your student email address).

Other Matters

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of other people’s work, including the copying of assignment works and laboratory results from other students. Plagiarism is considered a form of academic misconduct, and the University has very strict rules that include some severe penalties. For UNSW policies, penalties and information to help you avoid plagiarism, see [http://www.ic.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism](http://www.ic.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism). To find out if you understand plagiarism correctly, try this short quiz: [https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism-quiz](https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism-quiz).

Student Responsibilities and Conduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to all UNSW policies (see [https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html](https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html)), and particular attention is drawn to the following:

Workload

It is expected that you will spend at least ten to twelve hours per week studying a 6 UoC course, from Week 1 until the final assessment, including both face-to-face classes and independent, self-directed study. In periods where you need to need to complete assignments or prepare for examinations, the workload may be greater. Over-commitment has been a common source of failure for many students. You should take the required workload into account when planning how to balance study with employment and other activities.
Attendance
Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is expected. UNSW regulations state that if students attend less than 80% of scheduled classes they may be refused final assessment.

General Conduct and Behaviour
Consideration and respect for the needs of your fellow students and teaching staff is an expectation. Conduct which unduly disrupts or interferes with a class is not acceptable and students may be asked to leave the class.

Work Health and Safety
UNSW policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others.

Special Consideration and Supplementary Examinations
You must submit all assignments and attend all examinations scheduled for your course. You should seek assistance early if you suffer illness or misadventure which affects your course progress. All applications for special consideration must be lodged online through myUNSW within 3 working days of the assessment, not to course or school staff. For more detail, consult https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/SpecialConsideration.html.

Continual Course Improvement
This course is under constant revision in order to improve the learning outcomes for all students. Please forward any feedback (positive or negative) on the course to the teaching assistant, Mr. Anderson West, Mr. Alexis Shaw, Mr. Ross Leon, or via the Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement Process. You can also provide feedback to ELSOC who will raise your concerns at student focus group meetings. As a result of previous feedback obtained for this course and in our efforts to provide a rich and meaningful learning experience, we have continued to evaluate and modify our delivery and assessment methods.

Administrative Matters
On issues and procedures regarding such matters as special needs, equity and diversity, occupational health and safety, enrolment, rights, and general expectations of students, please refer to the School and UNSW policies:
http://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/electrical-engineering/policies-and-procedures
https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html
Appendix A: Targeted Graduate Capabilities

Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications programs are designed to address the following targeted capabilities, which were developed by the school in conjunction with the requirements of professional and industry bodies:

- The ability to apply knowledge of basic science and fundamental technologies;
- The skills to communicate effectively, not only with engineers but also with the wider community;
- The capability to undertake challenging analysis and design problems and find optimal solutions;
- Expertise in decomposing a problem into its constituent parts, and in defining the scope of each part;
- A working knowledge of how to locate required information and use information resources to their maximum advantage;
- Proficiency in developing and implementing project plans, investigating alternative solutions, and critically evaluating differing strategies;
- An understanding of the social, cultural and global responsibilities of the professional engineer;
- The ability to work effectively as an individual or in a team;
- An understanding of professional and ethical responsibilities;
- The ability to engage in lifelong independent and reflective learning.

Appendix B: UNSW Graduate Capabilities

The course delivery methods and course content directly or indirectly addresses a number of core UNSW graduate capabilities, as follows:

- Developing scholars who have a deep understanding of their discipline, through lectures and solution of analytical problems in tutorials and assessed by assignments and written examinations.
- Developing rigorous analysis, critique, and reflection, and ability to apply knowledge and skills to solving problems. These will be achieved by the laboratory experiments and interactive checkpoint assessments during the labs.
- Developing capable independent and collaborative enquiry, through a series of tutorials spanning the duration of the course.
- Developing digital and information literacy and lifelong learning skills through assignment work.
## Appendix C: Engineers Australia (EA) Professional Engineer Competency Standard

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<th>Program Intended Learning Outcomes</th>
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<td><strong>PE1: Knowledge and Skill Base</strong></td>
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<td>PE1.1 Comprehensive, theory-based understanding of underpinning fundamentals ✓</td>
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<td>PE1.2 Conceptual understanding of underpinning maths, analysis, statistics, computing ✓</td>
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<td>PE1.3 In-depth understanding of specialist bodies of knowledge ✓</td>
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<td>PE1.4 Discernment of knowledge development and research directions ✓</td>
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<td>PE1.5 Knowledge of engineering design practice ✓</td>
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<td>PE1.6 Understanding of scope, principles, norms, accountabilities of sustainable engineering practice ✓</td>
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<td><strong>PE2: Engineering Application Ability</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PE2.1 Application of established engineering methods to complex problem solving ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE2.2 Fluent application of engineering techniques, tools and resources ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE2.3 Application of systematic engineering synthesis and design processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE2.4 Application of systematic approaches to the conduct and management of engineering projects</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PE3: Professional and Personal Attributes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE3.1 Ethical conduct and professional accountability ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE3.2 Effective oral and written communication (professional and lay domains) ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE3.3 Creative, innovative and pro-active demeanour ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE3.4 Professional use and management of information ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE3.5 Orderly management of self, and professional conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE3.6 Effective team membership and team leadership ✓</td>
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