

ELC401 **Advanced Digital Communications****School:** School of Science, Technology and Engineering

2023 | Semester 1

UniSC Moreton Bay

**BLENDED
LEARNING**

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to usc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?**1.1. Description**

Digital communications are essential to the functioning of modern society. Examples include cellphones, broadcasting, and satellite communications. In this course you will expand on your knowledge and understanding of Communication Engineering, by developing specialised techniques and the design of components in communication systems. You will explore the standards governing communication protocol and hardware, analyze performance of communication systems, and specify general telecommunication systems.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

| ACTIVITY | HOURS | BEGINNING WEEK | FREQUENCY |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|
| BLENDED LEARNING | | | |
| Learning materials – Asynchronous learning materials | 1hr | Week 1 | 13 times |
| Laboratory 1 – On campus | 2hrs | Week 4 | 4 times |
| Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus | 2hrs | Week 2 | 10 times |
| Seminar – On campus | 1hr | Week 1 | Once Only |

1.3. Course Topics

- Information and coding theory
- Synchronisation
- Digital Modulation Techniques
- Signal space analysis, BPSK, QPSK, QAM.
- Maximum likelihood detection (MLD)
- Bit error rate (BER) performance.
- Orthogonal frequency modulation
- Broadband communications
- Wireless communications
- Introduction to optical communication theory and applications

2. What level is this course?

400 Level (Graduate)

Demonstrating coherence and breadth or depth of knowledge and skills. Independent application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Meeting professional requirements and AQF descriptors for the degree. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory or developing knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally undertaken in the third or fourth full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

| COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES | GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING | PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING * |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| On successful completion of this course, you should be able to... | Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming... | Engineers Australia Stage 1 Professional Engineer Competency Standards |
| 1 Investigate the operation and design principle of advanced digital communication systems based on underlying theories and design considerations. | Creative and critical thinker | 1.3, 2.3, 3.2, 3.6 |
| 2 Solve design problems associated with the integration of communication components, techniques and associated electronic devices into a digital communication system | Empowered | 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.2 |
| 3 Demonstrate knowledge and apply theories in design, analysis and evaluation in digital communication systems | Knowledgeable | 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.2 |
| 4 Communicate digital communication systems using appropriate engineering terminology, symbols, and diagrams | Engaged | 1.1, 2.3, 3.2 |
| 5 Work collaboratively in teams to design digital communication system to meet specified requirements | Empowered | 1.1, 2.1, 3.2, 3.6 |

* Competencies by Professional Body

| CODE | COMPETENCY |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA STAGE 1 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER COMPETENCY STANDARDS | |
| 1.1 | Knowledge and Skill Base: Comprehensive, theory based understanding of the underpinning natural and physical sciences and the engineering fundamentals applicable to the engineering discipline. |
| 1.2 | Knowledge and Skill Base: Conceptual understanding of the mathematics, numerical analysis, statistics, and computer and information sciences which underpin the engineering discipline. |
| 1.3 | Knowledge and Skill Base: In-depth understanding of specialist bodies of knowledge within the engineering discipline. |
| 2.1 | Engineering Application Ability: Application of established engineering methods to complex engineering problem solving. |
| 2.3 | Engineering Application Ability: Application of systematic engineering synthesis and design processes. |
| 3.2 | Professional and Personal Attributes: Effective oral and written communication in professional and lay domains. |
| 3.6 | Professional and Personal Attributes: Effective team membership and team leadership. |

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [UniSC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

ELC301

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

6.3. Assessment tasks

| DELIVERY MODE | TASK NO. | ASSESSMENT PRODUCT | INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP | WEIGHTING % | WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH? | WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT? | WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT? |
|---------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| All | 1 | Portfolio | Group | 30% | Each task is to be documented in a report and submitted in a group (maximum page limit of 15 pages). Each student writes approximately 1000 words and groups of 4-5 | Throughout teaching period (refer to Format) | In Class |
| All | 2 | Artefact - Technical and Scientific, and Written Piece | Group | 30% | The project-based design / case Study report is to be written with a maximum page limit of 10 pages. Each student writes approximately 1000 words | Week 10 | Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check |
| All | 3 | Examination - Centrally Scheduled | Individual | 40% | 2 hours | Exam Period | Exam Venue |

All - Assessment Task 1: Assessment 1-Report

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| GOAL: | Through this task, the students develop understanding on the underlying theories and operational principles of advanced digital communication systems. The students will carry out studies and implementations using hardware and communication equipment to validate their theoretical understandings on the emerging topics in modern communication systems | | |
| PRODUCT: | Portfolio | | |
| FORMAT: | Reports describing and critically analyzing the simulation tasks. Each task is required to be documented as written reports. The reports can be a maximum of 15 pages including diagrams and calculations. Submit in weeks 5, 7, 9 | | |
| CRITERIA: | No. | | Learning Outcome assessed |
| | 1 | Investigate the operation and design principle of advanced communication systems based on the underlying theories and design considerations | 1 |
| | 2 | Solve design problems associated with the integration of communication components and associated electronic devices into a digital communication system | 2 |
| | 3 | Work collaboratively in teams to design communication system to meet specified requirements | 5 |
| GENERIC SKILLS: | | | |

All - Assessment Task 2: Project-Based Design/Case Study

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| GOAL: | This task will develop critical thinking and analyzing ability of the students to formulate, design and evaluate performance of communication system utilizing the appropriate techniques, hardware and components | | |
| PRODUCT: | Artefact - Technical and Scientific, and Written Piece | | |
| FORMAT: | A professional engineering report, which documents analytical solutions and software simulations. The report will be 1500 words equivalent including diagrams and calculations | | |
| CRITERIA: | No. | | Learning Outcome assessed |
| | 1 | Investigate the operation and design principle of advanced digital communication systems based on the underlying theories and design considerations | 1 |
| | 2 | Demonstrate knowledge and apply theories in design, analysis and evaluation in digital communication systems | 3 |
| | 3 | Communication of digital communication systems using appropriate engineering terminology, symbols and diagrams | 4 |
| GENERIC SKILLS: | | | |

All - Assessment Task 3: Final Exam

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| GOAL: | The final exam will develop your ability to independently apply your skills and knowledge to solve familiar problem-based questions with confidence within a set time limit and without access to additional resources. | | |
| PRODUCT: | Examination - Centrally Scheduled | | |
| FORMAT: | Centrally scheduled 2 hour closed book examination. | | |
| CRITERIA: | No. | | Learning Outcome assessed |
| | 1 | Investigate the operation and design principle of advanced digital communication systems based on the underlying theories and design considerations | 1 |
| | 2 | Solve design problems associated with the integration of communication components and associated electronic devices into a digital communication system | 2 |
| | 3 | Demonstrate knowledge and apply theories in design, analysis and evaluation in digital communication systems | 3 |
| GENERIC SKILLS: | | | |

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Not applicable

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all studio and laboratory classes and a low level of health and safety risk exists. Some risk concerns may include equipment, instruments, and tools; as well as manual handling items within the laboratory. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
- The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.6. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.7. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.8. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.9. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.10.General Enquiries

In person:

- **UniSC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **UniSC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **UniSC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **UniSC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **UniSC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **UniSC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au