ECE 2300 Digital Logic and Computer Organization, Fall 2025

Next Steps

School of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Cornell University

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1. Verify you can view the Canvas course site

We will be using Canvas for all announcements, distributing course materials, collecting assignments, and distributing grades. Please make sure that if you are officially enrolled in the course you can view this course in Canvas.

2. Verify you can view the Ed Discussion forum

We will be using Ed Discussion for online discussion. Students officially enrolled should already be automatically added to the Ed Discussion forum for this course. Please use the link in Canvas to make sure you can view the Ed discussion forum. All communication should use Ed Discussion unless a student needs to discuss a personal matter in which case they should email the instructor. Students should never directly email any teaching assistant.

3. Read the course syllabus

The course syllabus contains essential information about the course motivation, structure, procedures, and policies. It will be assumed that all students have read and understand all of the material in the course syllabus. We will not waste lecture time going through every detail of the syllabus, so it is very important to read the entire syllabus!

4. Prepare for first quiz

There will be a short five-minute quiz at the very beginning of lecture on Thursday on the course collaboration and AI policies as described in the syllabus. Please review the collaboration and AI policies before next lecture to prepare.

5. Read Chapter 1 of Harris and Harris

The required textbook for the course is "Digital Design and Computer Architecture, RISC-V Edition," by D. M. Harris and S. L. Harris (Morgan Kaufmann, 2021). The textbook is available to all students online through Canvas via the Cornell Academic Materials Program. Students should read Sections 1.1, 1.2, 1.7, and 1.9 before Thursday's lecture. Students should finish reading all of Chapter 1 before next Tuesday's lecture.

6. Complete Canavs quiz with your GitHub username

If you do not already have a GitHub account, go to `https://github.com/join`. Make sure you use your `netid@cornell.edu` email address if you are creating a new account. Your NetID makes a good GitHub username. Then fill out the Canvas quiz so we know your GitHub username. This will allow the instructors to add your GitHub account to the GitHub organization created for this course. **Note that we are not using the Cornell-hosted version of GitHub as in some other courses; we are using `github.com`.**

7. Plan to attend discussion section on Friday

Discussion sections will be on Fridays at 1:25–2:15pm, 2:30–3:20pm, and 3:35–4:25pm in 225 Upson Hall. These discussion sections will be relatively informal, with the primary focus being on facilitating student's ability to complete the lab assignments and on reviewing material from lecture using problem-based learning. In this Friday's discussion section, we will be introducing the Linux development environment students will be using throughout the semester. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all discussion sections. However, if student has an unavoidable class conflict with the discussion section they should submit a time conflict permission form so they can still enroll in the course.

8. Work through tutorials

We have posted three tutorials on canvas covering remote access to the `ecelinux` servers, the Linux development environment, and the Git distributed version control system. The tutorials have critical information on the computing resources we will be using in the programming assignments. Please start working through the tutorials.

9. Start thinking about a lab partner

The course includes four lab assignments. For the first lab assignment, students will work individually on the code and with a randomly assigned partner for the in-lab portion and the lab report. Students will work with a self-selected partner for the remaining three lab assignments. Lab partners must be in the same lab section. Students should use the first three weeks of the semester to choose their partner carefully based on background expertise, work style, and course goals. Choosing your best friend may or may not be the best strategy. If you do not know anyone in the course, start trying to meet your fellow students before/after lecture, during discussion sections, and during the first week of lab. Consider posting on Ed Discussion if you are struggling to find a partner. **A student's success in the lab assignments often strongly depends on choosing a suitable lab partner; please invest time in this process!**