departmentS of Electrical/Computer/Software/mechanical engineering

Fairfield University

wrap-up sessions

# Spring 2010

Course: EG32 Course name: Fundamentals of Engineering 2 (34 students, two sections)

Instructor: Jeffrey N. Denenberg (with periodic guest speakers)

High points of the course (“successes”):

Pedagogy: Lectures and problem solving sessions. All class materials available for download via a course web site on <http://doctord.webhop.net>. Eidos used for Homework/Lab uploads and “Reflections”. This year we continued to emphasize the use of threaded discussions via Eidos. The Freshman Project had added structure as each team was required to upload continuing meeting notes in addition to the Problem Definition, Project Plan, Decision Matrix, PowerPoint Presentation and Final Report..

Homework: Graded assignments, labs and “Reflections”

Exams and Projects: Exam results were mixed, some good, some poorer than desired; The Freshman Projects are currently being presented (3 of 8 so far) but have suffered from a tendency of the students to wait too long to get started.

Student Attendance and Performance: Classes were well attended. Student interest stayed high throughout the semester. The threaded class discussion group was a significant help in promoting a sense of community among the cohort.

Other:

Problems encountered:

Assignments:

Student effort in doing the assigned homework has dropped off from last semester. Reflections, Laboratory Report and Homework uploads were generally done in after their due date.

Instruction method:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Course prerequisites:

Student feedback:

Generally positive

Student Performance: Reasonable, but this group seemed more motivated on average from last year.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grade distribution:

Reasonable distribution A-C, average B+

Action steps

Course Portfolio: Student work filed via Eidos; Competency Forms will be updated as part of the grading process. Forms A and F will be updated for consistency with the syllabus as required after final grades are submitted.

Change course prerequisites? no

Change course content? Continuous process, add some Instrumentation content to EG31 next Fall.

Change course objectives and/or outcomes? Minor updates

Recommendations for further improvement\*

Continue to emphasize the relationship of Calculus and Physics to Engineering as well as the fact that the course knowledge is cumulative. This means that the process of cramming for exams and then forgetting the material doesn’t work in engineering. I plan to further emphasize the need for timeliness especially in the Freshman Project. There will be an early discussion of the project process as before, but this toime it will be backed up by a defining document.

instructional environment

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

We need to have technical support available during class hours. There were periodic problems with the systems in McA102 that interfered with pedagogy. Student wireless access to the internet should be made available in McAulifee. It is sometimes difficult for the students to access the internet in McA102.

Were the problems brought to the attention of the Dean’s office? Yes

Were the problems corrected in a timely fashion?

Fixed, yes, but sometimes took too long.

\* use an additional sheet if necessary.