

ECE 0401

TITLE:

Introduction to Humor for Electrical and Computer Engineering Students

Submitted April 1, 2005.

PART I.

- **Catalog Description:**

Incoming ECE students typically lack the basic background necessary to understand an instructor's jokes during lectures. The purpose of this course is to enable students to get jokes that pertain to the profession and how to provide appropriate feedback to humor during a lecture.

Pre: Breathing (3H, 3C)

- Course Number: 0401
- Transcript Title: Intro to Humor for ECE

PART II

- **Major, Measurable Learning Objectives**

Having successfully completed this course, the student will be able to:

- describe and discuss constraints unique to engineering humor,
- apply knowledge of state-of-the-art hardware and software terms in engineering jokes,
- communicate both orally and in writing with other members of a team in way that will crack them up,
- and explain why it is important to laugh at an instructor's jokes even when they are not funny.

PART III. Justification

- **Reason for Teaching the Course:**

Students almost never laugh at an instructor's jokes during the lecture, despite how funny the jokes usually are. Getting an instructor's jokes would improve student retention of knowledge, because the laughter will wake up other students who have fallen to sleep.

- **Level Justification:**

This course is fundamental to understanding instructor's jokes in all of the department's core courses and thus should be taken before any of them.

PART IV. Prerequisites and Co-requisites

Breathing.

PART V. Texts and Special Teaching Aids

- Required Texts:
None.

PART VI. Syllabus

Because the easiest way of inserting humor into a lecture without going on a long-winded tangent is to use a pun, the focus of this course will be on puns related to electrical and computer engineering topics. To more quickly accustom the students to a humorous environment, the material will be taught using tunes that the students will likely be familiar with:

1. pF the Magic Capacitor
2. Ring of Firewire (by Johnny Cache)
3. Twinkle, Twinkle LED
4. Jumping Nand Flash
5. Dielectric Slide
6. E&M Fields Forever
7. Wheatstone Bridge Is Shorting Out
8. I'm a Little Trim Pot
9. This Nand is Your Nand

A new song will be introduced every week. In the following week, the student will be required to identify all jokes in each song. Final grades for the class will be pass/fail: Either you get the jokes, or you don't.

PART VII. Old (Current) Syllabus

Not applicable as this is a new course.

PART VIII. Core Curriculum

Relevant.