



ECE 4680/6680 Embedded Computing  
SPRING 2024

MEETING TIME: 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm

MEETING LOCATION: Riggs 227

INSTRUCTOR(s): Dr. Adam Hoover, 313A Riggs Hall, 656-3377, ahoover@clemson.edu

OFFICE HOURS AND PROCEDURES: TBA. Both the TA and I respond regularly to email.

COURSE MODALITY: Traditional

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course teaches the principles of using computing in the larger context of a system. The student is expected to enter this class with an understanding of computer architecture, assembler, and proficiency programming in the C (or related) language. Emphasis is given to multimedia data (image, sound) as examples of processing found in an embedded system. In concurrent lab work, each student will design and implement many of the ideas that are found in higher end embedded systems.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: ECE 2230 and ECE 3710.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to apply engineering principles (design, implementation, testing and debugging) to modern embedded computing systems. Graduate students will additionally be ready to apply embedded computing concepts to advanced research problems within the focus area of intelligent systems.

REQUIRED MATERIALS: The student is required to have a laptop computer, internet connectivity capable of transmitting and receiving video, a video camera and a microphone.

COURSE WEBSITE: <https://cecas.clemson.edu/ahoover/ece468/>

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

- Data in embedded systems (1 week)
- Displays (1.5 week)
- Codecs (2.5 weeks)
- Processor, bus, and platform "flavors" (2 weeks)
- GPU triangle rendering (1 week)
- The boot process (1 week)
- Real-time operating system (1 weeks)
- Proving schedulability (2 weeks)
- Device driver fundamentals (1 week)
- Emerging embedded technologies, chips, and ideas (2 weeks)

CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY: Class is cancelled if the instructor is more than 30 minutes late.

GRADING POLICY:

- ECE4680: 60% labs, 20% midterm, 20% final
- ECE6680: 60% labs, 20% midterm, 20% final
- Grade scale is 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, <60 F

**SUBMITTING WORK:** All labs are to be submitted online to the assign server. Instructions are given in each lab handout.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

1. Attendance can be either in-person or online for each individual lecture.
2. To maintain physical distancing, students need to spread out seating in the classroom.
3. Synchronous online instruction will be conducted via Zoom.
4. While on campus, face coverings are required in all buildings and classrooms. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distance cannot be guaranteed. If a student does not have a face covering or refuses to wear an approved face covering, the instructor will ask the student to leave the academic space and may report the student's actions to the Office of Community & Ethical Standards as a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. If the student's actions disrupt the class to the extent that an immediate response is needed, the instructor may call the Clemson University Police Department at 656-2222.
5. Note that the University may convert to a purely online mode at any time.

**ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT:** Clemson University values the diversity of our student body as a strength and a critical component of our dynamic community. Students with disabilities or temporary injuries/conditions may require accommodations due to barriers in the structure of facilities, course design, technology used for curricular purposes, or other campus resources. Students who experience a barrier to full access to a class should let the instructor know and make an appointment to meet with a staff member in Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. You can make an appointment by calling 864-656-6848 or by emailing [studentaccess@lists.clemson.edu](mailto:studentaccess@lists.clemson.edu). Students who receive Academic Access Letters are strongly encouraged to request, obtain, and present these to their instructors as early in the semester as possible so that accommodations can be made in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to follow this process each semester. You can access further information here: <http://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/sds/>.

**TITLE IX STATEMENT:** Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, veteran's status, genetic information or protected activity in employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment and sexual violence as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

**SAFE CAMPUS:** Clemson University is committed to providing a safe campus environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. As members of the community, we encourage you to take the following actions to be better prepared in case of an emergency:

- a. Ensure you are signed up for emergency alerts (<https://www.getrave.com/login/clemson>)
- b. Download the Rave Guardian app to your phone (<https://www.clemson.edu/cusafety/cupd/rave-guardian/>)
- c. Learn what you can do to prepare yourself in the event of an active threat (<http://www.clemson.edu/cusafety/EmergencyManagement/>)

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a 'high seminary of learning.' Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form. In instances where academic standards may have been compromised, Clemson University has a responsibility to respond appropriately to charges of violations of academic integrity. Further information on Academic Integrity can be found in the [\*Undergraduate Announcements\*](#) and in the [\*Graduate School Policy Handbook\*](#).

**COPYRIGHT STATEMENT:** Materials in this course are copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act. Students should be reminded to refer to the Use of Copyrighted Materials and “Fair Use Guidelines” policy in on the Clemson University website for additional information: <https://clemson.libguides.com/copyright>.

**MODIFICATION STATEMENT:** The instructor reserves the right to modify any aspect of the syllabus at any time during the semester for reasons including but not limited to COVID-related situations.