

European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and EEE 211 Analog Electronics

Seven (7) ECTS credits are allocated to EEE 211 Analog Electronics course. This document describes the ECTS credits briefly and its implications on the expected student workload.

ECTS is the acronym for European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System. The system is introduced to facilitate and promote undergraduate student exchange among European universities. This credit system is based on student effort.

A very professional statistical survey had been carried out all over Europe in recent years and it is found that *the average student in Europe estimates that she/he needs to accomplish 1600 hours \pm 200 hours in order to complete one academic year's work[†]*. It must be noted that the results of the survey are remarkably consistent from one country to another and from one discipline to another.

ECTS defines the regular workload of a student for one academic year as 60 ECTS credits. This makes one ECTS credit corresponds to 25 to 30 hours of student effort.

Bilkent University had allocated 7 ECTS credits to EEE 211. This corresponds to 175 to 210 hours of student effort through out the entire course. The breakdown of this effort is detailed below:

During the 16 weeks (14 weeks for the course and two weeks for Final exams) of the semester we shall have 42 (50 minutes each) lectures, 22 (50 minutes each) tutorials, 16 (220 minutes each) laboratory sessions, 3 Midterm exams and a Final exam (90 minutes each), which sums up to 118 hours. Students who attend all of the above activities, participate in class discussions, make good use of tutorials and lab sessions, are expected to spend another 57 to 92 hours for completing the unfinished lab reports and homework assignments, reading the text and reference books, and studying for the exams.

A recent survey among the EEE 211 students reveals that, a successful student estimates that she/he needs approximately 12 hours of extra work to finish the lab reports and 18 hours to complete the homework assignments, on the average. Also approximately 4.5 hours of extra study is found necessary, on the average, before every exam, which sums up to 18 hours in total. Apart from these activities, students estimated that they spend a sum of 10 hours, on the average, to read the text and get prepared for the lectures, through out the semester.

This survey results are quite consistent with the ECTS credits. An average student is expected to spend approximately 13 hours of effort per week for this course during 14 weeks of coursework, on the average.

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[†] Richard de Lavigne "ECTS Credits and Methods of Credit Allocation", June 2003