

Remark: As we approach the middle of the course, students should be reminded of the next goal, which in this case is the mid-course design review. In this lecture we concentrate on that and describe the key issues.

Introduction

We are about to finish the term, and soon you will be asked to give a mid-course presentation of your project. To that end, we suggest that Lecture Note Six to be reviewed again. As a reminder, use no more than five slides or transparencies as described in that note to prepare your demonstration. Emphasize the block diagrams approach, which connect different parts of your project with different contributions of your team members. Although we help you with this preparation, you need to begin reviewing your slides with your technical faculty advisor as soon as those are ready.

Although it is very early to talk about the final report, these reviews and their corresponding documentation must be prepared with an eye on the final report. In that report you need to specify the purpose of your project by summarizing the design and the design process qualitatively and quantitatively, and convey the finished project to the client. Finally, you must provide a platform for future improvement and expansion of your project. Your documentation must conform to our format and style as described before, and will be refined subsequently.

It is imperative to understand the meaning of specifying the purpose of your project by summarizing the design objective and the design process qualitatively and quantitatively. We will be elaborating on these matters in class and you need to pay a particular attention to the thought behind this difference. Here, the course instructor should plan to explain these as they fit in the corresponding program. We have learned that many students do not know more than half way into the course, how to order parts for their design. Often they spend large sums of money to purchase the wrong parts because they have no clue about their design objectives.

Parts List

It is also that time of the term, at which you need to have your parts list and know all the projected hardware needed to complete the task. Many of you have already secured these items and/or know how to get those. For those of you who still are not sure where you may get these items, please consult with your technical faculty advisor as soon as possible. The department does not have specific budget for the cost associated with this course, nevertheless it is your responsibility and a major part of your final report requirement to have this list with the name of corresponding vendors available. Keep a record of all your receipts. Thus, be optimistic and assume that you may actually get paid!

Do not take off for the break, unless you are absolutely certain that when you return you have all the necessary parts to construct your projects.

Final Thought

This is the time to reflect and see how to improve our standing in the course. We have found that students are either hopeful about their projects and thus are extremely happy, or just the opposite. We ask students to share their feelings with us in order to help them to get on the right track. Stress and frustrations are part of the picture, but these should be managed for better results. Some students need help and we should be prepared to give them instructions.

Closure

The class ends with comments regarding our expectation to have 30-minute meeting with each and every group before the end of the term. We hope to assure that everyone is on the right path.

Essential thoughts in this lecture

Issues.	Applicability to your project, if any.
Each and every piece of these lecture notes forms a tile on the final mosaic of this course. Try to assemble those such that it portrays your contributions to the underlying project, and your learning of issues discussed in this course.	Obvious! However, you may claim that, for instance, your project has nothing to do with certain issues discussed in class. Clearly, and, if that is the case, then you must justify your claim.
Do you want to add anything else?	Please elaborate.