

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING
QUALITY ASSURANCE OF UNITS**

Report by Unit Co-ordinator

Unit code: ELE5PRA	Year: 2008 (1 st semester)	Campus: Bundoora
Unit coordinator: Jim Royston		
Teaching staff:	Lecturer: Jim Royston, Laboratory Co-ordinator: Jim Royston, Demonstrator: Tony de Souza-Daw	

SECTION A: NUMERICAL INFORMATION

Number enrolled:41

Number completing the QAU questionnaire:34

Grade distribution : A: 30 B: 4 C: 4 D: 1 E: N: 1 NS: 1

Other (Please list):

SECTION B: STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

(a) Please complete the following table (with previous year's results if available)

Core Questions	Current mean	Last year's mean
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		1st sem 2008	1st sem 2007
a.	The unit helped me develop my ability to work as a team member.	4.3	4.5
b.	Work in this unit enhanced my analytic skills.	4.2	4.2
c.	Learning in this unit helped me develop my problem-solving skills.	4.0	4.0
d.	I have developed my skills in written communication in this unit.	4.0	3.9
e.	The unit has helped enhance my confidence in tackling unfamiliar problems.	4.1	4.0
f.	The unit helped me develop my capacity to plan my work.	4.1	4.0
g.	I have improved my oral communication skills.	4.1	3.6
1.	The aims of the unit were made clear at the start.	4.3	4.4
2.	The teaching staff put a lot of time into commenting on my work.	4.3	4.2

3.	I was generally given enough time to understand the things I had to learn.	4.4	4.2
4.	The staff made a real effort to understand difficulties I might be having with my work.	4.3	4.4
5.	Appropriate forms of assessment were used in this unit.	4.1	4.2
6.	The teaching staff gave me helpful feedback.	4.3	4.2
7.	My teaching staff were extremely good at explaining things.	4.3	4.2
8.	The workload was manageable.	4.2	3.5
9.	The teaching staff worked hard to make this unit interesting.	4.4	4.1
10.	I was able to access the learning resources.	4.5	4.2
11.	The teaching staff motivated me to do my best work.	4.3	4.2
12.	Overall, I was satisfied with the quality of this unit.	4.3	4.3

(b) Summary of student comments on best aspects

“Best aspects of this unit are developing analytic skills and logical thinking, learning of circuits.”

“Everythings were well explained in the notes given. No difficulty in understanding.”

“Teaching was excellent, students need not worry about the laboratory work. Things were explained clearly.”

“The co-ordinator himself is the best for this unit.”

“I got a lot of practical experience with this unit. I improved my practical skills with this unit and also got a lot of things for this unit like experimental and characteristic things of components”.

“No examination. Practically oriented unit.”

“I refreshed the basic knowledge about basic electronics.”

“Gave me good basics in electronics & helped me to revise the electronic aspects studied earlier.”

“The co-ordinator has done his best to make this unit interesting and helpful to understand this particular area of unit for students.”

“Everything is fine. Laboratory is fine.”

“It helped me get a lot of information related to electronic circuit.”

“It’s fully practically based and starts with basic.”

“Lecture before doing the lab. Materials are available and accessible. Catch-up week.”

“Lecture notes were clear to understand.”

“The team work.”

“Practical skills of tackling problems.”

“Teaching of Jim.”

“This subject helped me in developing the skill in electronic subject. In this subject we are learning it in a practical methods.”

“The lecturer his knowledge and his manner.”

“It repeats somethings that we did before.”

(c) Summary of student comments on needed improvements

“Everything is going good. Some of the equipment has to be changed.”	<i>The issue of ageing equipment is recognised as increasingly urgent.</i>
“As far as now, everything is good.”	
“Nothing needs improvement.”	
“Can provide hard copy of lecture notes and lab materials to all. Some lengthy experiments can be shortened.”	<i>Departmental policy is to use WebCT/LMS for downloading notes. As discussed below, the syllabus for ELE5PRA has been re-worked and the labs are now shorter.</i>
“All the experiments has to be revised.”	<i>This has been done.</i>
“Nothing can be needed for improvement.”	
“Few topic need more time in lecture so that one can get good concept of the topic.”	<i>This has been acted on. There are now fewer topics and they are treated in more depth.</i>
“The practical work is too much. No need for preliminary work. Op-amp applications should be increased. Digital circuits need more application. Microcontroller and some applications.”	<i>Noted. Digital labs and microcontroller labs could be added another time.</i>
“Make sure that this subject does not clash with other units.”	<i>This mainly applies to the timetabling of lab classes. This was a real headache in 1st semester 2008. Depending on enrolments and budgets, a third lab time option could be offered in 1st semester 2009.</i>
“Nil”	
“Time for lab report”	<i>This has been cut down for 2nd semester 2008.</i>
“Practical implementation.”	<i>Not sure what this comment refers to.</i>
“Compact and decrease the lab works that we can finish it in time.”	<i>This has largely been addressed. There is still a need to shorten the op-amps lab.</i>
“The labs, make them more explanatory.”	<i>The switching regulator and the op-amps labs both need editing in this respect.</i>
“To improve this unit aspects, please provide the unit materials and lab notes.”	<i>With the cost of fees, I don’t blame the author of this comment!</i>
“The lab materials and assistants.”	<i>Lab material is being substantially revised throughout 2nd semester 2008. Tony was unpopular with some students.</i>
“Some things which refer to lab assistant must be improved. I think sometimes he forgets that we are Masters students and push us to painting instead of engineering works.”	<i>We need to remember that the students are paying us a lot money to study here and must be treated with respect.</i>

SECTION C: UNIT COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

(d) Last year's suggested improvements

“Nothing.”	
“Nothing – they are best.”	
“There should be more staffs in the laboratory to help students.”	<i>Lab staffing follows a Departmental formula and is dependent on our budget.</i>
“More detailed and relevant explanation for every labs we are going to do. Only the answers won't help that much!!”	<i>This comment was regarding hardware labs. Perhaps photographs of well-executed breadboard layouts would assist.</i>
“The time management.”	<i>Hardware labs have been shortened.</i>
“There were many instances when the teaching staffs weren't able to solve the queries. So it would be good if they take a note of it and get more expertise in the subject.”	<i>The hardware labs selected for 1st semester 2008 are among the better labs for us to demonstrate.</i>
“The laboratory assistants need to try harder to tend to the doubts of students.”	<i>I'm taking this as a call for a more considerate approach to demonstrating.</i>
“The availability of all the working components.”	<i>This was easier and went better this year as we had fewer hardware labs.</i>
“The main thing when is really to be concerned is what number of instructors in labs should be increased.”	<i>Always a problem. So far in 2nd semester 2008, this seems to be less of an issue.</i>

(e) Unit coordinator's comments on the unit this year

A major revision has been undertaken starting 2nd semester 2008, with the introduction of teaching segments on Altium, MATLAB and C programming. Only two hardware labs have been retained, Switching Regulators and Operational Amplifiers. These changes have greatly eased the load on the unit co-ordinator as the lecturing and lab co-ordination duties are now shared. This in turn seems to have helped the students, as the overall workload is now more manageable.

If necessary, extra hardware labs could be implemented, on such topics as Applications of Digital Logic or on Microcontrollers.

Most of the enrolment is of students who are overseas nationals, who may be reluctant to be too critical in survey responses for cultural reasons or because they do not wish to jeopardise an application for PR status.

(f) Unit coordinator's suggestions for improvements next year

It is too early to suggest major changes. When the opportunity comes to evaluate the student reaction to the changes implemented in 2nd semester 2008, we will be in a better position to determine arrangements for 2009.

Signed

(Unit Co-ordinator)

Date

SECTION D: COMMENTS BY HEAD OF SCHOOL OR NOMINEE

Taught every semester this is an excellent practical unit to help international students understand the hardware used in the department. A result of the 2007 discussions with students was to introduce some matlab, altium and C into this for sem 2 2008. So this is the last time with this particular mix of content.

Signed

(Head of School)

Date