MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY
Department of Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology

ITEC 467 MOBILE ROBOTICS
3 s.h.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION
This course is a study of the development of mobile robotic solutions. Emphasis is placed on the programming and interfacing of microcontrollers to control autonomous mobile robots in known environments. A research and development activity is required. 2 hours lecture, 3 hours laboratory. Prerequisite: ITEC 262 or permission of the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
After successfully completing the requirements of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain the origins of the personal computer and the microcontroller.
2. Critique current literature published on mobile robotics.
3. Assess platform construction and design needs for given mobile robotic applications.
4. Assess and deduce sensing needs for a mobile robot and its environment.
5. Design algorithms and develop programming techniques for various mobile robotic control issues.
6. Interface microcontrollers to sensors and dc motor control circuitry to develop and control mobile robotic motion.
7. Design algorithms and develop a complex control program for an autonomous mobile robot.
8. Design and develop a physical chassis solution (including sensor location) for an autonomous mobile robot.
9. Organize and develop complete documentation for an autonomous mobile robot research and development project from conception to completion.

CONTENT OUTLINE
I. Historical Development and Applications
   A. Microprocessors/Personal Computer
   B. Microcontrollers
   C. Mobile Robots

II. Programming Techniques
   A. Digital Input/Output Control
   B. Analog Input/Output Control
   C. Timing Delays
   D. Recursion
   E. Loops
   F. Subroutines
   G. Arithmetic
   H. Pulse Width Modulation
   I. Logic
   J. Multitasking
   K. Commenting
   L. Real time data acquisition and control

III. Data Types
   A. Boolean
   B. Byte
   C. Integer
   D. Long
   E. Floating Point
   F. String

IV. Platform Selection/Construction for Mobile Robots
   A. Mechanics/Locomotion
      1. Tracks
      2. Wheels
3. Legs
B. Platform Size/Shape
C. Motor Selection
D. Power Sources
E. Speed
F. Feedback
   1. Closed Loop
   2. Open Loop
G. Steering Control
   1. Holonomic
   2. Non-holonomic

V. Sensor Selection for Mobile Robots
A. Contact
   1. Limit (Normal Open and Normal Closed)
B. Non-Contact
   1. Infrared (IR)
   2. LASER
   3. Hall Effect
   4. Pyroelectric
   5. Ultra Violet (UV)
   6. Sonar

VI. Interfacing Techniques for Mobile Robots
A. Sensors
B. Servo Motors
C. H-bridge DC Motor Control Boards
D. LEDs
E. Computers
F. LCD Displays
G. Actuators

REQUIRED MATERIALS
http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/ChrisOdom

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ANSI-approved safety glasses
**GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS**
Students are expected to participate in or complete the following:

1. Obtain the required text.
2. Participate in class discussions.
3. Complete and submit all required experiments.
4. Complete a research and design experience.
5. Satisfactorily complete all tests and quizzes.
6. Participate in all assigned clean-up activities at the end of each class session and the close of the semester.
7. Attendance is the responsibility of each student—assignments, experiments or other class activities carried on during any absence rests with the student. An excessive number of absences will almost certainly be detrimental to your grade. Attendance will be taken for the record. A student’s class attendance will be a factor in “letters of recommendation” requested by the student from the course instructor. Attendance guidelines, as set forth by the Department of Industry and Technology, shall be followed. This policy is included in this syllabus.

**EVALUATION**
Course activities will be divided into the following categories:

A. R&D Team Experience  
   1. **BUILD TIMELINESS (15%)**
      a. Navigation Checkpoint (5%)
      b. Navigation + Detection Checkpoint (5%)
      c. Navigation + Detection + Flame Extinguish Checkpoint (5%)

   2. **DOCUMENTATION (20% of Course Grade)**
      a. Project Description with Embedded Pics Required (5%)
         …includes a statement of the problem, the impact (importance) of the problem, objectives, procedure, results and conclusions.
      b. Parts Listing (5%)
      c. Process Flow Chart/Algorithm (5%)
      c. Complete Programming Code with proper comments required (5%)

   3. **FINAL PERFORMANCE TEST (25%)**
      3/3 Successful Runs = 25% A  
      2/3 Successful Runs = 21% B  
      1/3 Successful Runs = 19% C  
      0/3 Successful Runs = 0-17.5% at Instructor’s Discretion
   *The group with the best performing robot will earn an automatic A for the Course
   *Groups with 3 candles are excused from the code exam (25/25)

B. Quiz (2 @ 5% ea.)  
   **Quiz (2 @ 5% ea.)**
   10%

C. Code Exam**  
   **Code Exam**
   25%

   **Each student is allowed to use a single page (8.5”x11”) hand written command/code reference sheet. Proper flowcharting technique is also expected to be part of the exam.

D. Article Reviews (1)
   **Article Review**
   5%

E. Bonus Article Review (2nd Review – use bonus form)
   **Bonus Article Review**
   3%

The letter grade for the course will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93.0 - 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90.0 - 92.9</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.0 - 89.9</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.0 - 86.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.0 - 82.9</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.0 - 79.9</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>73.0 - 76.9</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.0 - 72.9</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.0 - 69.9</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63.0 - 66.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.0 - 62.9</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.9</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grades will not be based upon criteria such as need, appearance, race, age, sex, or social status. Once determined, grades will not be changed except in the case of clerical errors that cause the student’s true level of ability to be underestimated.

Should the mean of the final grades for the class drop below a 75% (Average Grade = C), a curve to this value may be implemented at the discretion of the instructor.

**ASSESSMENT OF COURSE OBJECTIVES** *(identified in italics following the objective)*

After a series of planned experiences, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the origins of the personal computer and the microcontroller. *(Quiz)*
2. Critique current literature published on mobile robotics. *(Article Review)*
3. Assess platform construction and design needs for given mobile robotic applications. *(Exam)*
4. Assess and deduce sensing needs for a mobile robot and its environment. *(Exam)*
5. Design algorithms and develop programming solutions for various mobile robotic control issues. *(Final R&D Project)*
6. Interface microcontrollers to sensors and dc motor control circuitry to develop and control mobile robotic motion. *(Final R&D Project)*
7. Design algorithms and develop a complex control program for an autonomous mobile robot. *(Final R&D Project)*
8. Design and develop a physical chassis solution (including sensor location) for an autonomous mobile robot. *(Final R&D Project)*
9. Organize and develop complete documentation for an autonomous mobile robot design/development research and development project from conception to completion. *(Final R&D Project)*

**TITLE IX STATEMENT**

Millersville University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment, comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681, et seq., and act in accordance with guidance from the Office for Civil Rights, the University requires faculty members to report to the University’s Title IX Coordinator incidents of sexual violence shared by students. The only exceptions to the faculty member’s reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project.

Faculty members are obligated to report to the person designated in the University Protection of Minors policy incidents of sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred.

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence, and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence, is available at http://www.millersville.edu/sexualviolence/index.php.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

**MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY**

**EFFECTIVE SPRING 2003**

Approved by Faculty Senate 12/4/02; Administrative approval 1/10/03

The University supports departmental and faculty class attendance policies that are reflective of and consistent with University approved guidelines. Faculty will include their class attendance policy in their syllabi given to all students in their classes at the start of the semester.

**University approved guidelines:**

1. **Students are expected to attend all classes.** It is the student’s responsibility to complete all course requirements even if a class is missed. If a student misses class for an officially excused reason, then he/she is entitled to make up the missed work but only at the convenience of the faculty member. Responsibility for materials presented in, assignments made for, and tests/quizzes given in regularly scheduled classes lies solely with the student.

2. **The University policy is that faculty will excuse absences for the following reasons:**
   a. personal illness,
b. death or critical illness in the family,
c. participation in a university-sponsored activity,
d. jury duty,
e. military duties, or
f. religious holidays

3. **Faculty judge the validity of student absences from class within the University’s approved guidelines and may require documentation for excused absences.** Faculty will evaluate any reason, other than those listed above, for a student missing class and determine whether the absence is justified. In these circumstances, a student may make up missed work at the discretion of the instructor.

4. **In the case of foreseeable absences, students are encouraged to notify the faculty member in advance.** A student who will miss class due to participation in an official University activity must notify the instructor well in advance of the activity to assure that the absence is excused.

**Appeals:**
As with any academic issue, students may exercise their right to appeal adverse attendance decisions. Please refer to the current undergraduate catalog for the complete Academic Appeal procedure.

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**AEST DEPARTMENT ATTENDANCE POLICY**  
**Adopted May 4, 1998**

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes in accordance with the above policy. To the extent that this does not happen, the following shall apply:

1. **The limit of unauthorized absences depends upon the number of scheduled days per week as follows:**

   **Fall and spring semesters**
   - three per semester for a course scheduled three days per week
   - two per semester for a course scheduled one or two days per week

   **Winter and summer sessions**
   - two per session

2. Each late arrival and early departure will count as one-half of an unauthorized absence.

3. Participation in outside-of-the-classroom educational activities and intercollegiate contests shall be communicated to the instructor prior to the absence. Failure to do so will convert these authorized absences to “unauthorized absences.”

4. Students whose “unauthorized” absences exceed the policy stated in item #1 are liable to dismissal from the course with a grade of ‘F’ or ‘Z’.

**STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**
The instructor will provide reasonable accommodations to any student with special needs. The student is encouraged to inform the instructor of any condition that requires such accommodations. Also, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the Office of Learning Services, Room 348, Lyle Hall (Phone 872-3178) to request an official approval for providing any special accommodations and present a copy of this official document to the instructor.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**
www.stampsinclass.com
www.stampsinclass.com

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