COURSE SYLLABUS

1 ECE 8440 - Hardware System Design & Modeling

2 Meeting Information

3 credits, 3 contact hours One 150-minute lecture

a. **Section 001:**
Lecture: Wednesday from 03:00 pm to 05:30 pm, **CEER 109**

b. **Section DL1:**
Lecture: Wednesday from 03:00 pm to 05:30 pm in Online SYN., **Virtual**

3 Course Instructor(s), TA(s)

a. **Section 001:**

Class Instructor:	Jiafeng Xie
Office Hours:	Tuesday 2-4pm (can be zoom format), or by appt.
TA:	None

b. **Section DL1:**

Class Instructor:	Jiafeng Xie
Office Hours:	Tuesday 2-4pm (can be zoom format), or by appt.
TA:	None

4 Textbook

This course does not have a prescribed textbook

a. **Other Supplemental Materials:**
1. Book: Arithmetic Circuits for DSP Applications, by P. K. Meher and T. Stouraitis, Wiley-IEEE Press, 2017.

2. Book: Introduction to Logic Circuits & Logic Design with VHDL, by Brock J. LaMeres, 2nd ed., Springer, 2019.

3. Course slides

b. **References:**
1. Book: VLSI Digital Signal Processing Systems: Design and Implementation, by K. K. Parhi, John Wiley & Sons, 2015

5 Specific Course Information

a. **Catalog Description**
Introduces the concepts, skills, and techniques related to hardware design and modeling, including advanced computer arithmetic, system-to-hardware mapping techniques, memory-based design, pipeline/systolic processing, application-specific hardware accelerator design, and large-scale VHDL coding and testing skills.

b. **Prerequisites:** None; **Co-requisites:** None

c. For CPE/EE graduate students (or similar level) who are interested in hardware design

6 Learning Objectives

a. Be able to understand and apply hardware design knowledge into practical systems, can model, design, and implement specific systems according to specific requirements. More importantly, prepare oneself as a qualified engineer for life-long learning and catch up rapid trend in technology advancing.

1. Be able to collaborate and communicate with classmates for projects and homework.

2. Be able to use FPGA synthesis tools to design, synthesize, and implement large-scale hardware systems including use HDL for mapping processing algorithms into hardware architectures, test and validate the correctness of the hardware design, and implement the designs on FPGAs.

3. Understand and learn advanced computer arithmetic.

4. Be able to use memory-based techniques to design digital processing system.

5. Familiar with pipeline and systolic processing design skills.

6. Be able to design an application-specific hardware accelerator while taking care of the system constraints and requirements like processing time, power consumption, cost and size along with the possible trade-off considerations.

7 List of Covered Topics

1. Introduction, Motivation & Review of Basics
2. Advanced Computer Arithmetic-I: Integer and Modular Arithmetic
3. System-to-Hardware Mapping-I: Point-Wise Operations (PWM)
4. Advanced Computer Arithmetic-II: Modulo Reduction Arithmetic
5. System-to-Hardware Mapping-II: Accumulation
6. Advanced Computer Arithmetic-III: Circulant Arithmetic
7. Memory-based Design-I: Modern Storage Unit
8. Memory-based Design-II: Memory Implementation
9. Systolic Design: Overview and Architecture
10. Large-scale VHDL Coding and Testing
11. Application-Specific Hardware Accelerator-I (Discuss Existing Research Outcomes)
12. Application-Specific Hardware Accelerator-II

8 Tentative Schedule

Tentative schedules for all sections follow. Be sure to refer to the schedule for your specific section, if more than one is provided.

Tentative Schedule for **All Sections**

Month	Date	Course Topic	Homework/Project
August	23rd	Introduction, Motivation & Review of Basics	
August	30th	Computer Arithmetic-I	HW-1: VHDL for adder
September	6th	System-to-Hardware Mapping-I	
September	13rd	Computer Arithmetic-II	Project-1: Longa Reduction
September	20th	System-to-Hardware Mapping-II	
September	27th	Computer Arithmetic-III	HW-2: Accumulator & PWM
October	4th	Mid-Term Exam	
		Fall Break (9th-15th)	
October	18th	Memory-based Design-I	HW-3: Memory features
October	25th	Memory-based Design-II	
November	1st	Systolic Design	Project-2: Memory Implementation
November	8th	Large-scale VHDL Coding	
November	15th	Application-Specific Hardware Accelerator-I	Project-3 (Final Project)
November	29th	Application-Specific Hardware Accelerator-II	
December	6th	Final Project Presentation	

9 Grading Policy

Note: each class is also accompanied with VHDL teaching, its schedule can be seen in the slides of week-1.

Your final grade will be determined from the following:

- Homework*: 15
- Project**40
- Mid-Term Exam***: 15
- Final Project****: 30

*: Each homework will be 5 points, total 15 points.

**: There will be 2 regular projects (each 20points), total 40 points.

***: Exam review will be provided and the schedule can be seen later.

****: Final project along with presentation.

Letter grade scale: A(90–100), A–(87–89), B+(83–86), B(80–82), B–(77–79), C+(73–76), C(70–72), C–(67–69), D+(63–66), D(61–62), D–(60)F(<60)

10 HW Assignment and Laboratory Report Submission Policy

Homework and Project must be submitted according to the designated timeline. LATE SUBMISSION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Your homework should be neat and with your full name on.

11 Attendance Policy

The full version of the official Villanova class attendance policy is posted at https://live-villanova-catalog.cleancatalog.io/class-attendance, but the main points are as follows.

Whenever possible, students should inform the instructor if they plan to be late or absent from class. In all cases, documentation is required to petition for *excused* absences to the Associate Dean for Student and Strategic Programs, Dr. Stephen Jones. The excused absence form is posted at: https://forms.office.com/r/H2kbHKLUmw.

Excused absences do not count towards a failure in the course for first year students. Absence from class does not release the student from assigned work. Students who miss an in-class obligation such as an exam, a presentation, etc., due to an excused absence will not be penalized - the instructor may offer a make-up test, arrange an alternative time for a presentation, exempt a student from the assignment, or provide another arrangement. In the case of illness or injury, the form must be submitted within 24 hours of missing a class. The University's list of excused absences for all students includes the following:

1. Participation in NCAA athletic competitions
2. Participation in special academic events such as: conferences, field trips, project competitions, etc., and in official university business such as student representatives attending meetings related to university governance
3. Attendance at significant events of the immediate family such as: funerals, weddings, etc.
4. Religious holidays - see the University's policy on Religious Holidays
5. College-approved participation in placement activities such as: job interviews, graduate school interviews, job fairs
6. Legally required absence such as: jury duty, court appearance, short-term military service
7. Documented serious illness or disability

12 Examination Policy

The College of Engineering has adopted the following general examination guidelines:

1. Students must arrive before the start of the examination. Under exceptional circumstances a student may need to arrive late, but he/she can enter the examination room no later than five (5) minutes after the start of the exam.
2. Cell phones must be turned off until the student exits the examination room.
3. The official Villanova class attendance policy must be followed when requesting excuses for absences or lateness to an examination.
4. Each student must write and sign the following statement, "I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance in the completion of this examination."
5. For online examinations, the instructor may implement video proctoring or other measures to ensure academic integrity. For consent purposes, the instructor will inform students in advance if (s)he plans to use any form of video-proctoring and whether the examination will be recorded.

13 Academic Integrity Policy

The College of Engineering is committed to creating an environment of academic integrity and ethical decision-making that we hope is reflected in the actions of our students and graduates. As

Villanova students, integrity is central to the University mission. As engineers, our code of conduct requires us to place honor and integrity at the forefront of everything we do. As engineering students, it is expected that you will begin to adopt these values and instill them into your work habits. Students violating the academic integrity policy will receive a zero on that assignment or exam and the violation will be reported to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The University's academic integrity policy can be found on the following web page:
https://live-villanova-catalog.cleancatalog.io/academic-integrity-0.

14 Adherence to the Student Code of Conduct

Students are expected to act in a professional and respectful manner to their fellow students, faculty, and staff. Students should become acquainted with and understand the responsibilities set forth in the Student Handbook, especially those in the sections on Policy and Regulations. Adherence to university regulations is expected and required for successful completion of the program of studies. Enforcement within the classroom of policies regarding classroom behavior is the responsibility of the faculty member. All other discipline problems are to be referred to the Dean of Students.

15 Inclusive Classroom

This classroom is a place where you will be treated with respect; we welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, gender, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientation, and other visible and non-visible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment to allow all among us to learn and flourish.

16 Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of the university to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability (non-physical) please register with the office of Learning Support Services (LSS) by emailing Learning.support.services@villanova.edu or by phoning 610-519-5176 as soon as possible. Registration is *required* in order to receive accommodations. In addition, please contact the instructor during office hours in order to make the appropriate arrangements.

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. The ODS provides Villanova University students with physical the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact and register with Gregory Hannah, advisor to students with disabilities at 610-519-3209 or visit the office on the second floor of the Connelly Center.

17 Tutoring Services

Villanova's tutoring services include The Writing Center, The Learner's Studio, and The Center for Speaking and Presentation. These services are offered free of charge to students. Drop in as-needed or book a regular weekly session to supercharge your academic success. Sessions can be 30 or 60 minutes in length.

Register for an account and book sessions in advance at villanova.mywconline.com. If you don't see your class listed, request a tutor for a missing subject at: tutorrequest.villanova.edu For more

information, contact Juliana Struder at juliana.studer@villanova.edu or at 610-519-5862.

18 Online Expectations

Some or all sessions of this class may be recorded for educational purposes and for later playback. In order to foster a professional environment, please wear appropriate clothes, refrain from eating, mute your microphone if you are not talking to eliminate background noise and select an appropriate setting free of distractions. You may turn off your webcam for privacy reasons unless explicitly instructed not to do so by the instructor (such as during the conduct of online examinations).

19 Electronics Policy

The use of electronic devices, such as phones, laptops, tablets, calculators, etc., during class is generally allowed, unless their use causes a disturbance to others. During examinations, the use of any electronic device is prohibited, unless it is expressly authorized by the instructor.

Students are prohibited from making any audio or visual recordings (including taking photographs) of lectures, discussions, or other classroom activities, unless a student (1) has written permission in advance from the instructor, or (2) is permitted to record under terms and conditions as approved by the University's Office of Disability Services or Learning Support Services. Students who have received approval to record classes as an academic accommodation must provide supporting documentation from the Office of Disability Services or Learning Support Services in advance of any recording. Students may use authorized recordings only for the purposes of individual study in the course, and may not disseminate or share them with a wider audience without explicit permission.

20 Copyright Policy

The materials used in Villanova University courses ("Course Materials") generally represent the intellectual property of course instructors, third parties and/or the university which may not be disseminated or reproduced in any form for public distribution (e.g., sale, exchange, etc.) without the written permission of the course instructor. Course materials include all written or electronic documents and materials, including syllabi, current and past examination questions/answers, and presentations such as lectures, videos, slides, etc., provided by a course instructor. Course materials may only be used by students enrolled in the course for academic (course-related) purposes.

Published course readings (book chapters, articles, reports, etc.) available in "Blackboard" are copyrighted materials. These works are made available to students through licensed databases or fair use. They are protected by copyright law, and may not be further disseminated or reproduced in any form for distribution (e.g. uploading to websites, sale, exchange, etc.) without the permission of the copyright owner.

Follow these links for more information on Intellectual Property, Copyright, and Computer Acceptable Use.

21 Professorial Duties

It is important to note that teaching is one of the many duties that professors perform as part of their job responsibilities. In addition to teaching, professors perform research, advise graduate students, edit journals and review journal articles, serve on committees for the university and professional societies, travel to conferences to remain abreast of current developments and to present their results... to name just a few commitments.