Course Specifications
Valid in the academic year 2019-2020

Complex Systems Design Methodology (E031250)

Course size
Credits 6.0
Study time 180 h
Contact hrs 60.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020

A (semester 1) English lecture 30.0 h
seminar: practical PC room classes 30.0 h
B (semester 1) Dutch seminar: practical PC room classes 30.0 h
guided self-study 30.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
Stroobandt, Dirk TW06 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020 crdts offering
Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (main subject Communication and Information Technology ) 6 A
Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (main subject Electronic Circuits and Systems) 6 A

Teaching languages
Dutch, English

Keywords
Design methodology, hardware/software, complexity

Position of the course
The goal of this course is to familiarise students with different aspects and phases in the design of complex hardware/software systems. First, we build on the competences gained from the course Digital Electronics and we elaborate on hardware design at RT and system level, architecture exploration, hardware/software partitioning and interface synthesis. Next, we discuss the very important aspect of data transfers and memory use and elaborate on CAD, verification and testing of digital systems. In a second course part we focus on some important aspects of complex systems design.

Contents
• SoC, embedded systems and performance measures
• Models of computation
• System specification techniques and design languages
• Hardware architectures
• Hardware design at RT and architecture level
• Computer-aided design
• Functional verification, validation and testing
• Optimisation of data transfers and memory use
• High level synthesis and system design
• Architecture exploration
• HW/SW partitioning
• HW/SW interfaces
• RTOS
• Dynamic power management in systems
• Modern complex system design trajectories

Initial competences
Obtained credits for the course Digital Electronics or prove that equal competences have been obtained.

(Approved)
Final competences
1. Being able to draw Pareto curves
2. Being able to analyse and use control and timing concepts in digital systems
3. Being able to design a complex digital system in a hierarchical way
4. Knowing how to use programmable components such as FPGAs to implement a
digital system
5. Knowing the different sorts of interfaces and how they can be designed
6. Understanding how the design of a memory hierarchy can influence the performance
   of a system
7. Being able to design and simulate test benches
8. Being able to recognise the impact of performance measures on the implementation
9. Knowing how to systematically explore the design space
10. Knowing what an RTOS is and how it differs from another OS
11. Being able to perform a hardware design from specification to final realisation in
    reconfigurable hardware

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences
assessment

Conditions for exam contract
This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods
Guided self-study, lecture, project, seminar: practical PC room classes

Extra information on the teaching methods
Classroom lectures; Computer-assisted problem solving; Lab sessions

Learning materials and price
Partly full course text, partly annotated slides. The following book is also used as
learning material:
A Practical Introduction to Hardware/Software Codesign
Author: Schaumont, Patrick R
1st Edition., 2010, XVIII, 396 p., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-1-4419-5999-7
Price: 59.95 EUR

References
• D. Gajski, S. Abdi, A. Gerstlauer, G. Schirner. Embedded System Design: Modeling,

Course content-related study coaching
The practical exercises are fully coached. For the practical exercises we do not foresee
further follow-up with homework (preparing the exercises is beneficial though) Some
practical exercises are replaced by a project.

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Written examination, open book examination, oral examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Written examination, open book examination, oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Skills test
Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods
During examination period: oral open-book exam; written open-book exam - problems
During semester: graded lab sessions and project. Second chance: Possible in adapted
form
Frequency: four times per semester

Calculation of the examination mark
Special conditions: The computer laboratory work counts as 10% of the final grade, the
project as 20%, the theory exam as 30% and the exercises exam as 40%. The student has to obtain a minimum score of 8/20 for each part in order to pass, otherwise the total score \( P' \) (/20) is recalculated as \( P' = \min(8, P) \).