# Curriculum Proposal Form

**Proposal Title:** Computer Architecture II: Specialized Systems (0909.482)

**Sponsor(s):** Dr. John L. Schmalzel

**Department:** Engineering

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**Check All That Apply:**

- [x] Undergraduate
- [ ] Graduate

**College:** Engineering

If LAS:
- [ ] History/Humanities
- [ ] Math/Sciences
- [ ] Social/Behavioral Sciences

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**Type of Proposal (Check ALL that Apply):**

- [x] New Course (NOT Gen. Ed.)
- [ ] Name Change (Dept., School, Major)
- [ ] Changes in Degree Requirements
- [ ] Changes Involve Gen. Ed. requirements
- [ ] Minor Changes to Existing Courses
- [ ] Course is NOT General Education
- [ ] Course IS General Education

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**Department (Signature Indicates Approval):**

[Signature]

**Dept. Curriculum Chair / Date:**

[Signature] 24 May 99

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**College Curriculum Committee**

**Date of Open Hearing (if necessary):**

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- [ ] Approved
- [ ] Not Approved

**Comments:**

[Signature] Date

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**Academic Dean (& Graduate Dean, for New Graduate Programs Only):**

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- [ ] Approved
- [ ] Not Approved

**Comments:**

[Signature] Date

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**Signature (Graduate Dean) / Date:**

[Signature] Date
UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

DATE OF OPEN HEARING (if necessary) 5/27/99

APPROVED

NOT APPROVED

Comments:

SIGNATURE DATE

M. J. ALLCOCK 5/27/99

SENATE

Date announced at Senate 5/27/99 email

Voted upon at Senate: Approved Not Approved Date:

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/PROVOST

APPROVED

NOT APPROVED If no, reasons are as follows:

STUDENT CREDIT HOURS FACULTY LOAD HOURS EQUALIZED CREDIT HOURS

OFFICIAL COPY & APPROVAL SHEET FILED (DATE):

DATE/SIGNATURE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/PROVOST

REGISTRAR

DATE APPROVED COURSE DESCRIPTION RECEIVED

HEGIS TAXONOMY & COURSE NUMBER ASSIGNED CRN: 449

DATE/SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR

NOTIFICATION FORWARD:

SENATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

ACADEMIC DEAN(S)

REGISTRAR

SPONSOR(S)
Course Proposal

1. Details:

a) Course Title: Computer Architecture II: Specialized Systems
b) Sponsor: Dr. John L. Schmalzel, Electrical Engineering and Electrical Engineering Curriculum Committee
c) Credit Hours: 2 credit hours
d) Course Level: Senior
e) Curricular Effect: Required course for electrical engineering majors
f) Prerequisites: Computer architecture I: Introduction
g) Suggested Time/Scale of Implementation: Fall 1999 One section
h) Resources: Faculty will be hired and laboratory equipment obtained consistent with College of Engineering multi-year budget. Library acquisitions will be required.

2. Rationale:

The proposed course is a revision to part of the Engineering Curriculum Proposal approved by the College Senate in December, 1994. The proposed course is consistent with the establishment of the School of Engineering approved by the Board of Trustees in February, 1995.

A foundation element of modern electrical and computer engineering is advanced digital systems theory and design. This represents a substantial portion of the technologies used in modern, high-speed computer, communication, control, audio, video, and similar systems. Examples of advanced computing architectures include general-purpose microprocessors and microcomputers either based on complex instruction set or reduced instruction set architectures, and special-purpose computer architectures for applications such as digital signal processing, specialized input/output processors, math processing units, etc. Students need a firm foundation in the basics of computer architectures so that they can develop systems on this knowledge. In addition, they need to learn about the tools of modern digital system design.

3. Essence of the Course:

a) Objectives:

The proposed course has a number of objectives:
(i) Focus on the development of specialized digital system architectures for applications such as DSP, wireless, image processing, networking, and multimedia applications.

(ii) Develop techniques for simplifying complex algorithms and architectures so as to minimize total system real estate.

(iii) Employ advanced functional- and macro-modules to the design of large-scale digital systems in a large-capacity FPGA development environment. Utilize modeling software such as VHDL or Verilog.

b) Topical Outline:

- Specialized processor architecture elements: multipliers, wide accumulators, fast carry/generate, floating point processors.
- System validation: Fault tolerance, fault coverage, design verification vs. production verification.
- Applications: Design and implementation of selected architecture.

c) Evaluation and Grading Procedures:

Student grades will be based on projects, examinations, homework, and written and oral technical communication.

d) Course Evaluation:

The proposed course will be evaluated based on student evaluations and critical review by engineering faculty.

e) Texts:


4. Results of Consultations:

a) Consulted Departments: Computer Science

b) Consultants and Consultant Statements:

c) Written Consultations: The course has been discussed with the CS Department in a faculty meeting on October 22, 1998. A written analysis of the proposal will follow.
5. Additional Supporting Information:  N/A
6. **Catalog Description:**

The second course in computer architecture treats architecture elements of special-purpose digital systems. Use of macro functions is stressed.

Prerequisite of Computer Architecture I required.
To:    John Schmalzel, Electrical and Computer Engineering  
From: Don Stone, Computer Science  
Date:  3 May 1999  
Re:    Course proposal  

Thank you for consulting with the Computer Science Department on your undergraduate course proposal entitled Computer Architecture II. It looks reasonable to us, and we support it. Our only request (I believe you have already implemented this) is that the course name be changed to be somewhat more informative, specifically to Computer Architecture II: Specialized Systems.

We wish you the best of success in implementing this course!
To: John Schmalzel, Chair, Electrical Engineering  
From: Don Stone, Chair, Computer Science  
Date: 7 December 1998  
Re: Consultation on Computer Architecture I and Computer Architecture II

The Computer Science Department wants to thank you for consulting with us on the proposals for the Electrical Engineering courses Computer Architecture I and Computer Architecture II (and even coming to a department meeting to discuss these proposals). We have put a fairly large amount of time into evaluating these proposals and comparing them with our offerings. The content of the two courses appears reasonable to us, but we feel that the names of the courses need to be changed and that the first should be cross-listed.

We believe that the first course should be named Introduction to Computer Architecture or Foundations of Computer Architecture, since it is essentially a summary or survey version of material that we cover in several courses (primarily Computer Organization and Advanced Computer Architecture), with the addition of a lab. We think it should be cross-listed, giving it a CS number as well as an EE number, and we think that it would be appropriate for a CS faculty member to teach it.

Concerning the second course, we recommend that the course be named Specialized Digital Systems Architecture. We have compared the topics mentioned in the Objectives and Topical Outline sections of the proposal with the coverage of our current Advanced Computer Architecture course and with the coverage of several “classic” computer architecture textbooks, e.g., William Stallings' *Computer Organization and Architecture*, Richard Y. Kain’s *Advanced Computer Architecture*, Mehdi Zargham’s *Computer Architecture: Single and Parallel Systems*, and Michael Flynn’s *Computer Architecture: Pipelined and Parallel Processor Design*. In our current course and in each of these textbooks, we do not find most of the topics in the proposal; instead we find topics related to various types of modern computers, including RISC, superscalar processors, and parallel processing.

Cc: Lauretta Reeves, Senate Curriculum Committee  
    Pearl Bartelt, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
    James Tracey, College of Engineering
To: John Schmalzel, Electrical and Computer Engineering  
From: Don Stone, Computer Science  
Date: 3 May 1999  
Re: Course proposal

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