

**COURSE:** NE 476 / ECE 634 (Winter 2023)

**COURSE TITLE:** **Organic Electronics**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Prof. Hany Aziz [h2aziz@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:h2aziz@uwaterloo.ca)

**TA:** Fatemeh Samaeifar [fsamaeifar@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:fsamaeifar@uwaterloo.ca)

**LECTURES\*\*:** M 10:00-11:20am & F 8:30-9:50am in QNC 2502

\*\*Please Note:

- 1) UW public health measures may require that some classes be held on-line or in hybrid mode.
- 2) On-line or hybrid classes may be recorded and posted on Learn. The recordings may be used in future course deliveries.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The course gives an overview of organic electronic and optoelectronic devices. It begins with a review of electronic structure of single organic molecules as a guide to the electronic behaviour of organic aggregates. Various relevant material phenomena are reviewed; including topics from photo-physics (absorption and emission of light, excited states, radiative and non-radiative transitions), intermolecular charge transport mechanisms (hopping, disorder), charge injection and transport models, and energy transfer processes. Their applications in light emitting devices, solar cells, thin film transistors, photodetector and imaging photoreceptors, etc. are discussed. Aspects related to device fabrication and patterning may also be addressed.

**COURSE/TEACHING OBJECTIVES:**

This course will help students with no or limited prior background in the field to:

- Acquire a general background in the field of organic electronics and optoelectronics, basic theory, applications, challenges, recent developments, etc.
- Know and understand relevant fundamental scientific theory (qualitatively), and its relationship to organic semiconductor material and device design concepts.
- Become familiar with relevant terminology, and be able to read and understand scientific literature in the field
- NE476 only: Become familiar with basic device design parameters and implement a simple design of a certain organic electronic device.
- ECE634 only: Become able to survey and analyze research papers on certain relevant topics in the field

**SYLLABUS:**

01. Introduction to OLEDs:  
OLED Operation Mechanism, injection, transport and emission of light. Organic heterojunction. General comparison of inorganic versus organic devices
02. Electronic Structure of Organic Molecules  
Atomic and Molecular Orbitals, LCAO, Bonding and anti-bonding orbitals, Orbital hybridization, HOMO and LUMO levels, Conjugated Molecules
03. Photophysics of Organic Molecules  
Excited states: (Absorption and emission, Singlet and triplet states), Rates of electronic transitions, Transition moment, Frank Condon Principle, Radiative and non-radiative transitions, Excited state kinetics
04. Exciton Processes in Organic Solids  
The Solid State: (Bonding, states of matter, amorphous & crystalline states), Excitons, Forrester and Dexter energy transfer, Exciton quenching processes
05. Electronic Conduction in Organic Solids  
Conductivity: (carrier concentration versus mobility), Carrier generation, Hopping transport, Mobility measurements, Traps.
06. Aspects of OLED Physics and Technology  
Charge injection from metal contacts, Charge transport and device characteristics, Exciton formation and luminescence, OLED Efficiency, Stability and aging, RGB patterning approaches.
07. Organic Light Harvesting Devices  
Photoreceptor Devices, Photodetector Devices, Photovoltaic Devices: General background, device operation mechanism and characteristics, important phenomena, current challenges, recent developments
08. Organic Electronic Materials & Organic TFTs  
Small molecule and polymer materials for OEs. Hole and electron transport. Molecular design rules for mobility and chemical stability. OTFT operation mechanism and characteristics, important phenomena, recent developments
09. Selected Topics in Organic Electronics (if time permits)  
Quantum-dot OLEDs. Conducting polymers. Printing-based fabrication. etc.

**TEXTBOOK:**

No textbook required. Lecture notes and handouts will be provided.

**GENERAL REFERENCES**

- “Electronic Processes of Organic Crystals and Polymers”, Pope & Swenberg, Oxford University press, 2nd edition (1999).
- “Essentials of Molecular Photochemistry”, Gilbert & Baggott, CRC Press, 1991.
- “Organic Semiconductors” H. Meier, Verlag Chemie GmbH, 1974
- “Physics of Organic Semiconductors” Wolfgang Brütting, John Wiley & Sons Canada; 1 edition (2005)
- “Organic Electronics: Materials, Manufacturing, and Applications”, Hagen Klauk, John Wiley & Sons; 1st edition (2006)
- “Electrical transport in solids : with particular reference to organic semiconductors”, Kao, Pergamon Press; 1st edition (1981).

**MARKING SCHEME**

Different marking schemes will be used for ECE634 and NE476:

**NE476:**

- 10% Quiz  
The quiz will be ~20 minutes long and will be held during regular lecture time on **Monday, Feb 6, 2023.**
- 25% Midterm Exam  
The exam will be ~60 minutes long and will be held during regular lecture time on **Monday, Feb 27, 2023.**
- 20% Design Assignment  
Students will be given the assignment to design a specific organic electronic device that will meet certain performance, fabrication and/or cost requirements. See page 4 for more details.
- 45% Final Exam.  
The Final Exam will be held during UW regular final exam period.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- 1) To pass this course you must obtain a total of at least 40/80 in the quiz, midterm and final exam combined. Otherwise, that total will be the mark you will get in this course.
- 2) The quiz, midterm and final exams will be conducted in-person unless changes in UW public health measures make that not possible. In that case the affected assessment(s) will be conducted on-line.

**ECE634:**

- 10% Quiz  
The quiz will be ~20 minutes long and will be held during regular lecture time on **Monday, Feb 6, 2023.**
- 25% Midterm Exam  
The exam will be ~60 minutes long and will be held during regular lecture time on **Monday, Feb 27, 2023.**
- 25% Literature Review Project  
Students will conduct a literature review on a certain relevant topic of a *fundamental scientific* nature. The outcome of the review will be delivered as an oral presentation and a written critique. See page 5 for more details.
- 40% Final Written Exam.  
The Final Exam will be held during UW regular final exam period.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- 1) To pass this course you must obtain a total of at least 45/75 in the quiz, midterm and final exam combined. Otherwise, that total will be the mark you will get in this course.
- 2) The quiz, midterm and final exams will be conducted in-person unless changes in UW public health measures make that impossible. In that case the affected assessment(s) will be conducted on-line.

**COURSE WEBSITE:**

A course homepage is available on LEARN. It will contain copies of lecture slides and notes. The slides and notes will be uploaded weekly prior to each lecture. The site also contains a copy of this course outline. It will also be uploaded with any important updates, etc.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

A tentative schedule is shown below. The instructor reserves the right to change the outline and/or the schedule as needed.

Week No.	Main Subject/Topics Covered during Lecture
1	>>>> <i>Course introduction</i> 01. Introduction to OLEDs
2	02. Electronic Structure of Organic Molecules
3	03. Photophysics of Organic Molecules
4	03. Photophysics of Organic Molecules
5	04. Excitonic Processes in Organic Solids >>>> <i>Quiz</i>
6	05. Electronic Conduction in Organic Solids
7	06. OLED Physics and Technology >>>> <i>Midterm</i>
8	06. OLED Physics and Technology
9	07. Organic Light Harvesting devices
10	07. Organic Light Harvesting devices
11	08. Organic Electronic Materials & OTFTs
12	08. Organic Electronic Materials & OTFTs >>>> <i>NE 476 Design Assignment due</i> >>>> <i>ECE 634 Oral Presentations &amp; Written Critiques</i>

## NE 476 DESIGN ASSIGNMENT:

### General Scope:

Students will design a specific organic electronic device that will meet certain performance requirements. The design will be conducted by a **work group of two students** (typically)\*\*. Some design ideas will be suggested by the instructor for students to choose from. Alternatively, students can come up with their own ideas of the device they wish to design, but must seek the TA's approval of their idea to make sure it is suitable and is not already taken by other students (first come first serve basis). All students must confirm their final design idea with the TA **by Wed, Mar 22, 2023**. The design will be presented in a 8-10 page write-up (as a pdf file) and a short pre-recorded PowerPoint presentation, both of which to be submitted by uploading to the designated Dropboxes on Learn by **Monday, April 10, 2023**.

### Design Elements:

Your design will involve selecting:

- the general device structure including the different components (e.g. the layers to be included in the device that you deem necessary for the proper functioning of the device and their sequence, outlining the role(s) of each layer and/or component
- the specific material for each layer of the device including the substrate, electrodes, semiconductor layers, etc.
- the thicknesses of each layer
- any other elements you consider to be important for making your device satisfy the desired requirements

In making the above design choices for the various layers of the devices, the fundamental material properties that are relevant for the function of the specific layer or layers should be considered. The following are examples of some of the fundamental properties that should be considered in making choices about the material, layer sequence and layer thickness selection:

- the mobility of holes and/or electrons in the material (for all layers with a charge transporting role)
- the HOMO and LUMO energy levels of the material (for achieving the desired charge transfer across inter-layer interfaces)
- the bandgap of the material (for layers with light emission or absorption functionalities)
- the quantum yield and exciton relaxation efficiency of the material (for layers with light emission functionalities)
- the optical density of the material (for layers with light absorption functionalities)
- the exciton diffusion length (for layers where the diffusion of excitons can play an important role on its functionality)
- etc.

### The Write-up:

The design will be presented in a 8-10 page (single-spaced) write-up, to be submitted by uploading it to the designated Dropbox folder on Learn. **Turnitin® software will be used in assessing the originality of the writing.** The write-up should include:

- A description of the structure (bullet a above) and operation mechanism of your device. Include 1 or 2 schematic diagrams (showing device structure cross sectional views and/or energy band diagrams as appropriate)
- A complete yet concise justification of the decision elements and choices related to bullets a-d above, making the case for how your design will allow for the desired performance.

### The Pre-recorded Presentation:

- The pre-recorded presentation should be only 5-7 minutes long. A PowerPoint template will be provided on Learn. The template should be used for creating and structuring your presentation.
- The presentation will be used to help us better understand your design (as presented in the write-up) and its various aspects. The marking will be based primarily on the write-up. Therefore, the write-up should be complete and contain all the elements outlined in the previous section.

note:

\*\* Students who choose to work individually on the assignment or cannot find a partner will receive 2 extra points to their assignment mark as a bonus. The final mark of the assignment, including any bonus points, will not exceed 20.

## ECE634 LITERATURE REVIEW:

- 1) Each student will conduct an in-depth, individually conducted review of at least 3 scientific papers on one topic relevant to organic electronics. The students will give **an oral presentation and write a written critique** on the papers
- 2) The topic and papers are to be selected by the student, but must be approved by the course instructor. The final choice of topic and papers must be confirmed to the instructor by email and approved by the instructor **by the end of week 8 of the term (i.e. March 10, 2023)**.
- 3) In general, in order to be acceptable, each selected paper must meet the following conditions:
  - a. Must be a peer-reviewed research article on a topic in the field of organic electronic materials and devices
  - b. Must be published within the last 7 years in an ISI-indexed journal with an impact factor >5.0
  - c. Must have received >10 citations (papers published in the last two years are exempted from this requirement)
  - d. Must be at least 5 journal pages long (excluding references)
- 4) PDF copies of the confirmed papers (i.e. after they have already been approved by the instructor earlier) should be emailed to the instructor **no later than the end of week 8 of the term**. The following file name format must be used for the PDFs: **YourLastName\_FirstAuthorLastName\_YearPublished.pdf**
- 5) Marking Scheme:
  - a. Oral Presentation: 14% of total course grade
  - b. Participation in the Q&A sessions of the other ECE634 students presentations: 2% of total course grade
  - c. Written Critique: 9% of total course grade
- 6) **Oral Presentation:**
  - a. The presentation will typically be 25-30 minutes long including time for Q&A. **The presentations will be scheduled (tentatively) for weeks 11 & 12 of the term**. The presentations are normally scheduled during regular class hours, however, depending on the number of students taking the course (and hence the number of presentations), some presentations may have to be scheduled outside of regular class hours. The exact dates and times (as well as presentation length) will depend on the final number of students enrolled in the course and therefore will be confirmed later by Week 7 of the term.
  - b. A copy of presentation slides should be uploaded to the designated Dropbox on Learn **by 8:00 am on the day of your presentation**. The following file name format must be used for your slides file: **YourLastName.pdf**. The slides will be uploaded on LEARN and made available to all students in the class.
  - c. In general, your review, and hence your presentation, should include the following elements:
    - i. Background: This part should give some introduction to the general topic that the selected papers represent. This part can be for all papers combined, or divided to serve as a separate background for each paper, as may be appropriate
    - ii. Results & Discussion: A brief outline of the important results or findings in each paper
    - iii. Conclusions: A summary of the main conclusions of each paper
  - d. Marking: The following general and approximate marking scheme will be used:  
Background (3/14); Results & Discussion (4/14); Summary of Conclusions (1/14); General Presentation (2/14); Answers to questions (4/14).  
Note: The variety in the nature of the different topics may require customizing the marking scheme to make it more relevant to the individual topics. Therefore, the actual marking scheme may differ from this one.
- 7) **Written Critique:**
  - a. The critique will be 3 single-spaced pages max (+ a title page, that shows your name, the main topic covered by the papers, and the full bibliographic information of the papers) written in font size 12, and will include two parts; 1) a ~¼ - ½ page overview for each paper, each in a separate section, that summarizes the main findings and conclusions of the paper, and 2) a personal critique section that presents your own views of the strengths and/or weaknesses of the papers, with appropriate justifications, and areas where results or conclusions of the papers may agree or disagree with each other.
  - b. The critique **is due by Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. The document should be submitted by uploading it to the designated Dropbox folder on Learn. **Turnitin® software will be used in assessing the originality of the writing.**
  - c. Marking: The following general and approximate marking scheme will be used: Part 1 (4.5/9); Part 2 (4.5/9)  
Note: The variety in the nature of the different topics may require customizing the marking scheme to make it more relevant to the individual topics. Therefore, the actual marking scheme may differ from this one.

### **Important information:**

**Fair Contingencies for Emergency Remote Teaching:** The course outline presents the instructor's intentions for course assessments, their weights, and due dates in Winter 2023. **As best as possible, we will keep to the specified assessments, weights and dates.** To provide contingency for unforeseen circumstances, the instructor reserves the right to modify course topics and/or assessments and/or weight and/or deadlines with **due and fair notice to students.** In the event of such challenges, **the instructor will work with the Department/Faculty to find reasonable and fair solutions that respect rights and workloads of students, staff, and faculty.**

**Academic integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity for more information.]

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline. For typical penalties, check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals.

**Note for students with disabilities:** AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

**Turnitin.com:** Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen submissions, assignments and other deliverables in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.