COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 34798
Name: Fundamentals of communications
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1402 - Degree in Telecommunications Electronic Engineering	Escola Tècnica Superior d'Enginyeria	2	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1402 - Degree in Telecommunications Electronic Engineering	Telecommunication signals, systems and services	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

The course Fundamentals of Communications is a compulsory subject to be taught quarterly basis in the fourth quarter of the Degree in Electrical Engineering Degree in Telecommunications consisting of a total of 4 credits of classroom (theory and problems) and 2 laboratory credits. This course is intended for students to learn the foundations of electronic communications for later use in the field of telecommunications.

The purpose of this course is to describe the basic fundamentals and techniques used in signal transmission application in communications. It then lays out the basic circuits shown in the process of implementing these techniques, and various commonly used applications in communications.

The course contents are:

Thematic block I. Introduction and basical concepts. Signals.

- General considerations on the communication systems.
- Representation of signals in the frequency domain.

Thematic block II. Modulation of analog signals.

- Linear modulation.
- Angular modulation.

Thematic block III. Modulation of digital signals.

- Digital Modulation.
- Pulse Modulation.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended to have studied the subjects of:

Mathematics
Physics
Circuits and electronic and photonic components

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1402 - Degree in Telecommunications Electronic Engineering

G3 - Acquisition of the knowledge of the basic and technological subjects that allows students to learn new methods and theories and endows them with the versatility to adapt to new situations.

G4 - Ability to solve problems with initiative, decision-making and creativity, and to communicate and transmit knowledge, abilities and skills, understanding the ethical and professional responsibility of the activity of a telecommunications technical engineer.

G5 - Knowledge to carry out measurements, calculations, assessments, evaluations, loss adjustments, studies, reports, task planning, and other analogous work in the specific field of telecommunications.

G6 - Ability in the handling of specifications, regulations and norms of compulsory compliance.

R15 - Understand the standards and regulations of telecommunications in Spain, Europe and Internationally.

R1 - Ability for self-learning of new knowledge and techniques appropriate for the conception, development and exploitation of telecommunications systems and services.

R4 - Ability to analyze and specify the fundamental parameters of communication systems.

R5 - Ability to assess the advantages and drawbacks of different technological alternatives for the deployment and implementation of communications systems, from the point of view of signal space, perturbations and noise and analogue and digital modulation systems.

R8 - Ability to understand the mechanisms of propagation and transmission of electromagnetic and acoustic waves, and their corresponding transmitting and receiving devices.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. GENERAL CONCEPTS ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

1.1. Historical background.
1.2. Components of a communication system.
1.3. Signal processing for transmission: the concept of modulation.
1.4. Signal transmission: guided and unguided media.
1.5. Example of a telecommunication system: the superheterodyne receiver.
1.6. The electromagnetic spectrum.
1.7. Bulletin of problems.

2. SIGNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE DOMAIN FREQUENCY

2.1. Time and frequency analysis of signals.
2.2. Description of signals by Fourier series.
2.2.1. Determination of coefficients.
2.2.2. Parseval's theorem.
2.3. Description of signals by Fourier transforms.
2.3.1. Rayleigh theorem.
2.4. Properties of the Fourier transform.
2.5. Bulletin of problems.

3.1. Fundamentals of linear modulation.
3.1.1. AM. Modulation index. Definition and methods of determination.

3. MODULACIÓN LINEAL

3.1. Fundamentals of linear modulation.
3.1.2. Spectrum, power and bandwidth.
3.1.3. DBL BLU. Spectrum, power and bandwidth.
3.1.4. Analysis of a subsystem for generating an AM signal.
3.2. Analysis of a subsystem for generating AM signals.
3.3. AM demodulation: the envelope detector.
3.4. Bulletin of problems.

4. ANGULAR MODULATION

4.1. Fundamentals of angle modulation.
4.2. FM frequency modulation.
4.2.1. Spectral Analysis of FM. Cases.
4.2.2. Comparison between linear and angular modulation.
4.2.3. Basic techniques for modulation and demodulation.
4.2.4. FM modulation by VCO. Other FM modulation techniques.
4.3. Phase-locked loops. PLLs.
4.3.1. Linear model of PLL.
4.3.2. Communications applications.
4.4. Bulletin of problems.

5. DIGITAL MODULATION

5.1. Basic digital modulation ASK, FSK and BPSK. Spectra.
5.2. M-ary modulations. Constellations.
5.2.1. QPSK and 8-PSK.
5.2.2. QAM modulation.
5.3. Efficiency of digital modulations. Comparison.
5.4. Current applications of digital modulations.
5.5. Bulletin of problems.

6. PULSE MODULATION

6.1. Fundamentals of modulation pulses. The Nyquist sampling theorem.
6.2. Encodings PAM, PWM and PPM.
6.3. Pulse coded modulation: PCM. Pulse modulations.
6.4. TDM versus FDM technique. Comparison.
6.5. Bulletin of problems.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	30,00
Laboratory	20,00
Classroom practices	10,00
Total hours	**60,00**

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	15,00
Independent study and work	10,00
Preparation of lessons	45,00
Preparation for assessment activities	12,00
Resolution of case studies	8,00
Total hours	**90,00**

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The development of the course is structured around four themes: the theory and problem solving sessions, tutorials, presentation of evidence of continuous assessment and presentation of technical documentation testing practices.

Group learning with the teacher (G3, G4, G5, G6, R4, R5, R15)

The sessions of theory and problems using the model of lecture. In the theoretical sessions the teacher will present the fundamental contents of this subject using the media at their disposal, (presentations, transparencies, blackboard). In the problem sessions, the professor will explain a number of problems-type, through which the student will learn to identify the essential elements of posing and solving problems. They also use the participatory approach to the problem sessions, which is to prioritize the communication between students and student / teacher. To this end, the teacher will advance which day will be devoted to solving problems and what problems could be solved, so that the student can attend these classes with the approach of the problems, but its resolution will be completed in class forming groups of four or five students who then have to go to the blackboard to explain the problem and resolve the doubts that have the other fellow.

Tutorials (G3, G4, G5, G6, R1, R4, R5, R15)

The students will have a schedule of tutoring whose purpose is to solve problems, questions, guidance on jobs, etc.. The schedule of these tutorials will be indicated at the beginning of the academic year. They will also have the opportunity to clarify some questions via email or discussion forums by using the tool \\" Virtual Classroom\\" which provides the University of Valencia.

Individual study (G4, G6, R1)

A voluntary student may submit the resolution of a series of quizzes in total have 7 continuous assessment tests (PEC, one per lesson). These tests are voluntary self-assessment and should be resolved exclusively by students without any help from the teacher.

Group work with colleagues (G3, G4, G5, R1, R5)

The practice groups will consist of a maximum of two people, which should be organized for the design, installation and experimental evidence. Each practice will consist of two distinct parts each with an estimated duration of 2 hours. The first part is theoretical and its resolution is required to perform the second part of a purely experimental.

Teaching materials available (G3, G4, G5, G6, R1, R4, R5, R15)

To make a success of the teaching methodology described the student has the Virtual Classroom, from the beginning of the academic year, the following documents:

• **Teaching Guide** provides the information elements sufficient to determine what it is intended that the student learns, how it will do, under what conditions and how it will be evaluated.

• **Transparencies** of each course topic.

• **Newsletter problems** in each lesson.

• **The practice outlines** the following structure:

- Objectives.
- Material.
- Prior knowledge.
- Theoretical basis.

Activities and experimental procedure.

EVALUATION

For the first round, it will be applied the continuous evaluation method. This means that, in addition to the final examination, class and laboratory work will also be evaluated according to the following rules:

1. Student work, up to 1 points, broken down as follows:

1.1. Participation in class, answers questions and solving exercises/tests in class (G3, G4, G5, G6, R4, R15).

1.2. Resolution of tasks deliverables that the professor calls for and other non-classroom-based volunteer work (G3, G4, G5, G6, R1, R5).

2. Continuous assessment of laboratory, up to 2 points. Obtained by:

2.1. The students will answer a test after each laboratory project, to determine the mark for each laboratory project.

2.2. The final mark will be the average of all the laboratory project marks. The unattendance to any of the laboratory sessions will provide a 0 mark for the corresponding laboratory project (G4, G5, R4).

3. Final exam, up to 7 points.

3.1 Exam regarding theoretical and practical issues of the subject (G3, G4, G5, G6, R4, R5).

It will be necessary to obtain at least a mark of 4 on 10 in laboratory and a final exam sections to be evaluated the course in first round.

The final mark will be the sum of the three sections, it must obtain a minimum mark of 5 points on a total of 10 points to pass the course.

For the second round, a final examination will be held regarding the theoretical and practical content taught in the classroom and an additiona exam regarding the work done in in the laboratory.

Both of these exams will have the same percentage as in the first round and it must obtain a mark of 4 on 10 in both of these exams to be evaluated.

The final grade will be given, as in the first round, by the sum of the three sections. It must obtain a minimum mark of 5 points on a total of 10 points to pass the course.

In case of not taking the exam, the corresponding grade will be "Not presented".

In any case, the evaluation system will be subordinate to the Evaluation and Qualification Regulation of the University of Valencia for Masters and Degrees

(https://webges.uv.es/uvTaeWeb/MuestraInformacionEdictoPublicoFrontAction.do?accion=inicio&idEdictoSeleccionado=5639).

REFERENCES

- Referencia b1: Sistemas de Comunicaciones Electrónicas. W. Tomasi. Prentice-Hall.
- Referencia b2: Sistemas de Telecomunicación. C. Pérez y otros. Textos Universitarios de la Universidad de Cantabria.
- Referencia b3: Fundamentos y Electrónica de las Comunicaciones. E. Sanchis, coord. Colección

manuales nº 72, PUV.

- Referencia c1: Sistemas Electrónicos de Comunicaciones. Floyd. Pearson.
- Referencia c2: Electronic Communications for Technicians. T. Wheeler. Prentice-Hall.