CMU-CU Mechanical Engineering Program Orientation

Chris Anderson
Undergraduate Academic Advisor
Academic Expectations

- Students’ Expectations of Instructors
  - Be knowledgeable about the subject
  - Be prepared
  - Communicate with students
    - Syllabus, Website, email list
  - Communicate with students
  - Hold regular office hours and respond to student needs and questions in a reasonable time
Academic Expectations

- Instructors’ Expectations of Students:

  ▶ Be Professional:
    ▶ Email: please make sure you include your CU Student ID number and a clear CU email address to respond to.
    ▶ Be prepared when you come to class. (readings, lab reports, etc...)

  ▶ Create a learning environment
    ▶ Come prepared to class and expect to spend 2-3 hours outside of class for every one credit hour you are in.

  ▶ CHECK and READ your University of Colorado Email!
    ▶ This is our official form of communication with you.
Other Advice:

- We will add you to a CU ME student list serve.
  - This is one form of communication to our students and it is up to you to let us (@ CU Boulder) know if you would like to be taken off of this list.
  - We often send important information regarding the curriculum and the program to this email list, so please read them.

- We also have an alternate list serve that serves as a career services and professional list serve. We will often send:
  - Job announcements
  - Professionalism events (some in Boulder and Denver)

- Don’t sell your books! You will likely want to use them in the future!
Grades:

- Most courses will grade on a curve
  - B- at the center of distribution

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-87</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>68-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>64-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤ 63</td>
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- Grades are an imperfect measure of achievement
- Hard work is necessary, but not sufficient for achievement in engineering
Grade Strategies:

- Start strong! You never know what will happen during the semester, and your coursework will start off very quickly, so stay on top of your work!
- Most Professors award partial credit
  - Complete all assignments
  - Never leave an exam question blank. At least give it a shot!
- Attend Faculty Office hours often!
- Form Networks
  - Learn together in study groups. This is essential!
- Ask for help!
  - Faculty, other students, et al.
CU Honor Code:

- **ALL coursework is conducted under the Honor Code**
  - Penalties range from an F in the course to expulsion.

- **Take responsibility for your education!**
  - Make sure that you learn the material - employers expect that you have.
  - Learning to learn is an engineers’ most important skill

- **Collaboration vs. Cheating:**
  - **Collaboration**: communicating concepts
  - **Cheating**: using others’ work as your own - it’s more common than you think
  - Be clear on instructors’ specific policies
CU-Boulder Contacts:

- Problem with a professor? Feedback to:
  - Partnership Director: Tim Brower
  - CU-Boulder Undergrad Chair: Conrad Stoldt
  - ME Department Chair: Jana Milford

- Other issues: Petition form from Tim Brower goes to undergrad committee for approval at CU-Boulder
Academic Titles:

Be safe, call EVERYONE “Professor x”
  - Some faculty take this a bit more seriously than others

All Variants:
  - Full Professor
  - Assistant Professor
  - Adjunct Professor
  - Research Professor
  - Associate Professor
  - Senior Instructor
  - Instructor
**CMU-CU Partnership Structure:**

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<th>University of Colorado</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>College of Engineering</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dean: Rob Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Dean of Education: Brian Argrow</td>
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<td>Assistant Dean: Mary Steiner</td>
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<tr>
<th>Department of Mechanical Engineering</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Jana Milford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Committee Chair: Conrad Stoldt</td>
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<td>Other CU-Boulder ME faculty</td>
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Questions?
Welcome to the CU-Boulder Mechanical Engineering Department!