

3PN4 Semiconductor Junction Devices
Undergraduate Studies
Winter 2025
Course Outline

CALENDAR/COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides fundamental in-depth knowledge of the physical principles and operational characteristics of semiconductor devices. The major emphasis is on band theory and an introduction to non-equilibrium charge carriers, junction diodes, bipolar junction transistors (BJT) and related devices such as photodiodes, LEDs and solar cells. The physics and some applications of various versions of these devices will be considered. This course also lays a necessary foundation for MOSFET transistors and specialized devices treated in level four courses. The course includes four graded assignments, one midterm test, 4 compulsory laboratory experiments and a final examination.

PRE-REQUISITES AND ANTI-REQUISITES

EP3F03 or MAT2Q03. Antirequisite: MAT3Q03

INSTRUCTOR OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Ramis Arbi
JHE A415
arbir@mcmaster.ca

Office Hours:
By appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANT OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Pedro Oliveira
oliveirp@mcmaster.ca

Office Hours: By
appointment

COURSE WEBSITE/ALTERNATE METHODS OF COMMUNICATION

<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>

COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students should be able to understand the following on both a qualitative and quantitative basis:

- The physical principles and operational characteristics of semiconductor devices in the context of band theory

- Non-equilibrium charge carriers
- Junction diodes
- Basic Photodiode and solar cell concepts
- Light emitting diodes (LED)
- Bipolar junction transistors (BJT)
- Junction field effect transistors (JFET)

MATERIALS AND FEES

Required Texts:

1) Principles of Solar Cells, LEDs and Related Devices: The Role of the p-n Junction, Second Edition (2019), John Wiley, by Adrian Kitai

Supplementary References:

- 1) Physics of Semiconductor Devices, S.M. Sze
- 2) Semiconductor Device Fundamentals, R.F. Pierret

Calculator:

Any non-networked calculator is acceptable.

COURSE FORMAT AND EXPECTATIONS

- 1) 3 in-person lectures per week
- 2) 4 assignments
- 3) 1 midterm
- 4) 1 final exam
- 5) 4 labs and lab reports
- 6) 1 presentation

COURSE SCHEDULE

- 1) Lectures, in-person: 10:30 am to 11:20am, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursday.
- 2) Labs: Tuesdays 2:30 pm to 5:20 pm. Labs will be interactive lab sessions supervised by the TAs
- 3) Tutorial: Thursdays 8:30 am to 9:20 am

ASSESSMENT

Component	Weight
Assignments	20%
Midterm	20%

Laboratories	10%
Class Participation	20%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

LABS:

Lab manuals will be available on Avenue to Learn. Every lab report must be done individually. **All labs must be completed in person to pass the course: this includes attendance at the lab for each and every lab, satisfactory performance during the lab, and a satisfactory lab report for each and every lab.**

Class participation: Your class participation grade depends on your Powerpoint presentation on the solution to one homework problem. Students will prepare and provide these presentations in class as a group of two students. These presentations will occur in the first 5-10 minutes of the lecture slots.

You will be assigned a date and a question for your presentation at least one week ahead of time. You must both present as scheduled otherwise you will lose 3/10 of the final course participation grade immediately!

If you fail again to present on your second chance, you will lose another 3/10 of your final course participation grade and will receive a maximum of 4/10 for classroom participation.

The remaining 4/10 of your final grade is based on attendance. You must attend each class and miss not more than 5 lectures in total. Each missed lecture beyond 5 lectures is a drop of 1% and 9 missed lectures is therefore a loss of 8/20.

If you have special circumstances that will require you to miss more than 5 lectures, please discuss this with the course instructor ahead of time.

MSAF policy:

- In the case of an MSAF, the weight of the missed work (e.g. assignment, lab, midterm) will automatically be transferred onto the final exam.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google's Bard, Microsoft Bing) is strictly prohibited.

ACCREDITATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

To Be Determined

The Learning Outcomes defined in this section are measured for Accreditation purposes only and will not be directly taken into consideration in determining a student's grade in the course.

For more information on Accreditation, please visit: <https://www.engineerscanada.ca>

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Every registered student belongs in this course. Diversity of backgrounds and experiences is expected and welcome. You can expect your Instructor to be respectful of this diversity in all aspects of the course, and the same is expected of you.

The Department of Engineering Physics is committed to creating an environment in which students of all genders, cultures, ethnicities, races, sexual orientations, abilities, and socioeconomic backgrounds have equal access to education and are welcomed and treated fairly. If you have any concerns regarding inclusion in our Department, in particular if you or one of your peers is experiencing harassment or discrimination, you are encouraged to contact the Chair, Associate Undergraduate Chair, Academic Advisor or to contact the [Equity and Inclusion Office](#).

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

For a list of McMaster University's resources, please refer to the [Student Wellness Centre](#).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. improper collaboration in group work.
3. copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

McMaster is committed to an inclusive and respectful community. These principles and expectations extend to online activities including electronic chat groups, video calls and other learning platforms.

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online.**

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC WORK

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

- 1. Relief for missed academic work worth less than 25% of the final grade resulting from medical or personal situations lasting up to three calendar days:**
 - Use the [McMaster Student Absence Form](#) (MSAF) on-line self-reporting tool. No further documentation is required.
 - Students may submit requests for relief using the MSAF once per term.
 - An automated email will be sent to the course instructor, who will determine the appropriate relief. Students must immediately follow up with their instructors. Failure to do so may negate the opportunity for relief.
 - The MSAF cannot be used to meet a religious obligation or to celebrate an important religious holiday.
 - The MSAF cannot be used for academic work that has already been completed attempted.
 - An MSAF applies only to work that is due within the period for which the MSAF applies, i.e. the 3-day period that is specified in the MSAF; however, all work due in that period can be covered by one MSAF.
 - The MSAF cannot be used to apply for relief for any final examination or its equivalent. See *Petitions for Special Consideration* above.
- 2. For medical or personal situations lasting more than three calendar days, and/or for missed academic work worth 25% or more of the final grade, and/or for any request for relief in a term where the MSAF has been used previously in that term:**
 - Students must report to their Faculty Office to discuss their situation and will be required to provide appropriate **supporting documentation**.
 - If warranted, the Faculty Office will approve the absence, and the instructor will determine appropriate relief.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.