

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Brief Course Description:

This course is designed to allow students to pursue their interests in a variety of areas related to robotics while participating in a nationally recognized robotics program, FIRST Robotics. Students taking this class will be required to participate on the Citrus Circuits robotics team. Students will choose their area of interest from the following: mechanical design/CAD, mechanical fabrication/assembly, electronics, programming, or business/media. Although there will be some academic topics such as mechanics, electronics and programming, the course is mostly project-based and will require a significant amount of work outside of the regular class period. The main focus of the course will be the design, fabrication, assembly, and programming of a competition robot. However, students interested in the business/media strand will focus on support of the team through business development (fundraising, sponsorship, financial management, etc.) and team image (press releases, social media, website development, team apparel, etc.) More information about the FIRST Robotics program can be found at <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc>.

Context for Course: The course will align with California State Standards in several subject areas including:

A - Physics Standards

Motion and Forces

1. Newton's laws predict the motion of most objects.

Conservation of Energy and Momentum

2. The laws of conservation of energy and momentum provide a way to predict and describe the movement of objects.

Electric and Magnetic Phenomena

5. Electric and magnetic phenomena are related and have many practical applications.

B - Investigation and Experimentation Standards (Science)

1. Scientific progress is made by asking meaningful questions and conducting careful investigations. As a basis for understanding this concept and addressing the content in the other four strands, students should develop their own questions and perform investigations.

C - Common Core Standards For Mathematical Practice

- 1) Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- 2) Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- 3) Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- 4) Model with mathematics.
- 5) Use appropriate tools strategically.
- 6) Attend to precision.

D - Career Technical Education Standards:

A variety of standards will be covered from the following pathways:

Arts, Media, and Entertainment Industry Sector

Media and Design Arts Pathway

Engineering and Design Industry Sector

Architectural and Structural Engineering Pathway

Computer Hardware, Electrical, and Networking Engineering Pathway

Engineering Design Pathway

Engineering Technology Pathway

Manufacturing and Product Development Industry Sector

Machine and Forming Technology Pathway

Marketing, Sales, and Service Industry Sector

Entrepreneurship Pathway

Professional Sales and Marketing Pathway

*This course serves as a concentrator for the Engineering Design pathway.

History of Course Development:

Four years ago, the DJUSD School Board approved a course that is currently being taught, titled “Robotics Engineering”. Three years ago the board approved another course titled “Introduction to Robotics Engineering”. Students in the Intro course expressed an interest in continuing to develop skills learned in the course with an intermediate course that would help prepare them for the advanced course. The Intermediate course was Board approved two years ago and this is the final course in the series. This also helps realize the ultimate goal of the robotics program at DHS of having a 3 to 4 year progressive program that is ultimately integrated with participation in the FIRST robotics program. FIRST robotics is a highly-developed national robotics program in which the Davis team 1678 (Citrus Circuits) has risen to national recognition of the past several years.

In the first year of the program, students will be introduced to many different aspects of robotics, including design, mechanics, electronics, programming, business and media. These topics would be explored using the VEX Cortex Robotics platform. In the second year (proposed intermediate course) students would develop skills from the Intro course to a higher level with more emphasis on mechanical design and manufacturing, key components of Robotics Engineering. In the third year, students would specialize in a content area and work on a team to develop their skills in their chosen field. In the fourth (and final) year, students would take on leadership roles of sub-teams and also help facilitate community outreach programs to give back to our community. Throughout the third and fourth years of the program, students would be required to participate in the FIRST robotics competition as a Citrus Circuits team member.

COURSE GOALS AND/OR MAJOR STUDENT OUTCOMES

There are four major goals of the proposed course:

1. Develop skills learned in the Introduction to Robotics Engineering Course and Intermediate Robotics Engineering.

Students will continue to develop their mechanical, electrical and programming skills by taking part in the current VEX robotics competition. They will be tasked with designing, wiring and programming a VEX EDR robot from scratch to play the current year's game. They will also develop their mechanical design and fabrication skills by learning to use Solidworks CAD design software and fabricate parts using 3-D printers.

2. Enrichment of Current Math, Science, Art and Humanities Curricula

Students who participate in the Carnegie Mellon Vex Robotics program make strong connections between real world applications and their academic classes. The program is student-centered and requires students to collaborate in order to achieve the goals of the course. By following the Vex curriculum, students will have formal training in many disciplines including:

- Math
- Science
- Engineering
- Business
- Media
- Programming
- Technology

4. Providing Career Technical Education

One of the greatest supplemental educational benefits of The VEX Robotics program is that it provides many types of career technical education. This allows students of diverse interests and academic abilities to engage in the program. The proposed curriculum will thus provide several areas of career technical education, including:

- Industrial Safety
- CAD design
- Electronics
- Pneumatics
- Construction Technology
- Machining/Millwork
- Business Development
- Marketing
- Media (including photo and video)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Following are the major course objectives:

1. Students will use physical science and math concepts to solve various mechanics problems regarding force, motion, rotation, energy conservation, and power transfer.
2. Students will apply the physical science and math concepts to design pneumatics systems that includes a pump, storage tanks, gauges, sensors, regulators, and linear motion cylinders.
3. Students will use physical science and math concepts to create a DC electrical system that includes a battery, wires of appropriate gauge, relays, switches, potentiometers, encoders, current regulators, fuse panels, and motors.
4. Students will write a computer program that will operate a processor to control the operation of a robotic system.
5. Students will use science and math principles to design mechanical components to work in a robotic system.
6. Students will use Computer Aided Design software to model their robotics components.
7. Students will demonstrate their ability to collaborate with others and apply their learned skills and concepts to the design, fabrication, and assembly of a competition robot. The completed robot will then be used to compete in regional and national level competitions.
8. Students will design and implement a business plan to seek and provide financial support of all activities related to the building of (and competing with) the competition robot.
9. Students will document the progress of their build and competition season through a website, social media channels, press-releases, and presentations to the community.
10. Students will develop communication and leadership skills through a system of team management and documentation.

COURSE OUTLINE

Following is the proposed course outline

1. Safety
 - Workspace organization and safety rules
 - Safe use of tools and equipment
 - Safety equipment
2. Project management
 - Master scheduling
 - Using Gantt charts and organizers
 - The engineering process
 - System to power a robot.
3. Computer Aided Design Focus
 - Solid Part Design
 - Assembly of Parts using constraints
 - Creating Annotated Drawings of Parts and Assemblies
4. Fabrication Focus
 - Reading part drawings
 - Using 3-D printers to machine parts
5. Programming Focus
 - Introduction to programming in C (syntax, variables, functions)
 - General program structure to read inputs from remote Joysticks
 - Program structure to read inputs from remote switches
 - Program structure to read other inputs from local sensors
 - Creating autonomous commands and responses.
6. Construction of an actual robot
 - Design of drive system
 - Design of manipulators and / or robotic arms
 - Design of chassis
 - Design of onboard sensors and feedback components
 - Fabrication, assembly, and testing of drive system and chassis
 - Fabrication, assembly, and testing of manipulators and / or robotic arms
 - Testing of sensors and computer program
 - Installation and testing of pneumatic components
 - Installation and wiring of the electrical systems
 - Testing of all systems
 - Debugging and adjustments

TEXTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Title, Author, Publisher, Edition: None

Previously Adopted? Yes No (If no, provide information directly below)

Cost per book

Total Cost

Budget Source

Other:

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND/OR STRATEGIES

A variety of instruction methods and strategies will be used on this course. These are described in more detail below.

- Demonstration and Discussion will be used often to determine prior knowledge and identify misconceptions
- Group work will occur frequently as students will be required to experiment, assemble robotic components. Some assignments requiring research and presentation will be done in group setting with responsibilities rotated often.
- E-Mail and on-line communication tools will be used so that students may collaborate with other students, mentors, and professionals.
- Computers with CAD tutorials will be used to allow students to learn at their own pace and provide feedback and tips.
- Lecture will be used occasionally to disseminate course content.

ASSESSMENT METHODS AND/OR TOOLS

The proposed course is primarily project-based. Even though many academic principles will be taught (and are necessary to the success of the projects), the most important criteria for success in the course will be similar to those required for success in a career. The best way to assess these criteria is to conduct periodic performance reviews of each student and provide guidance on how to improve. Performance reviews will be conducted at each grading period and the result of those reviews will form a part of the students' grades.

In addition to the performance review, students will be required to keep an engineering notebook that they will continually update. The notebook will be used to record information learned during workshops and lectures and will take the form of a work portfolio.

Quizzes will be used to assess learning of key conceptual ideas.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The main assessment criteria will be:

- Student attendance
- Student work-ethic (completion of tasks, level of focus, willingness to follow directions of team leaders, and taking initiative)
- Ability of student to work in a team environment
- Development of critical-thinking and problem-solving skills
- Development of written and oral communication skills

HONORS COURSES ONLY

Not Applicable