University of California, Merced
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
COURSE SYLLABUS

ENGR 191, PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR
Spring 2019

Day/Time/Place: Monday, 4:30 - 5:20 pm, COB 102

Instructor: Mark R. Matsumoto, Science and Engineering 2, Room 315

Office Hours: Monday, 3:30 –4:30 pm, or by appointment

Final Exam: Thursday, May 16, 2019, 6:30 pm -9:30 pm (if needed)

Suggested Reading   ***Studying Engineering***, 4th edition, Landis, R.B, Discovery Press, 2013.

Other Resources: The "Education" section at Enginnering.com

                        The "Young Engineers" link under "Magazine" at EngineeringJobs.com

                        Engineering Your Own Success: 7 Key Elements to Creating an Extraordinary
                        Engineering Career, Fasano, A., Premier Publishing, 2011.

Grading distribution: Assignments 50%
Pass/Fail only   Attendance 50%

To receive a passing grade, students must:
  1. Attend a >80 percent of sessions (≥10 of 13) in person.
  2. Complete and submit ALL assignments; ≥75 percent must be turned in on time, however. (NO MORE
     THAN TWO ASSIGNMENTS MAY BE TURNED AFTER THE ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE.) Due dates and TIMES
     are noted in CatCourses for each assignment. Late assignments can be turned any time up until the last
     meeting session (5/6).

Course Content: Seminars and exercises focus on insights and preparation for professional engineering practice
and future career advancements.

Learning Outcome Goals:

  1. Understand what it means to be a computer science or engineering professional and expectations in that
     role.

  2. Reinforcement of professional responsibility and conduct.

  3. Understand what qualities computer science and engineering employers seek in prospective employees.

  4. Overview and understanding of the job search process.

  5. Insights into the relevance of professional registration.

Topics Covered:
- Expected outcomes of college education and selected major
- Occupation vs. Profession
- Career services available at UC Merced
- Desirable traits of professionals
- Relevance of professional organizations
- Ethical responsibility as a professional
- Tips for career preparation throughout four years
- Advice from working professionals, human resources managers
- Understanding the job search process
- Graduate studies – pros/cons
- Importance of communication skills – oral/aural/written
- Preparing for a first job/internship
    - Cover letters, résumés
    - Interviewing
    - Negotiating