

**ECE 5734/ ME 5584/ AOE 5734: Convex Optimization  
Course Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Mazen Farhood  
224-13 Randolph Hall  
E-mail: [farhood@vt.edu](mailto:farhood@vt.edu)  
Phone: 231-2983

**Meeting Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 to 1:45 PM

**Meeting Place:** 208 Randolph Hall

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:50 to 3:20 PM

**Grader:** TBA

**Description:** Recognizing and solving convex optimization problems. Convex sets, functions, and optimization problems. Least-squares, linear, and quadratic optimization. Geometric and semidefinite programming. Vector optimization. Duality theory. Convex relaxations. Approximation, fitting, and statistical estimation. Geometric problems. Control and trajectory planning.

**Primary Text:** Stephen Boyd and Lieven Vandenberghe, [\*Convex Optimization\*](#), Cambridge University Press.

**References:** A. Ben-Tal, A. Nemirovski, *Lectures on Modern Convex Optimization: Analysis, Algorithms, and Engineering Applications*, SIAM.

D. P. Bertsekas, A. Nedic, A. E. Ozdaglar, *Convex Analysis and Optimization*, Athena Scientific.

D. P. Bertsekas, *Nonlinear Programming*, Athena Scientific.

Y. Nesterov, *Introductory Lectures on Convex Optimization: A Basic Course*, Springer.

J. Borwein and A. S. Lewis, *Convex Analysis and Nonlinear Optimization: Theory and Examples*, Springer.

<b>Grade:</b>	20%	Homework
	40%	Midterm (24-hour take-home exam)
	40%	Final (24-hour take-home exam)

## Course Topics:

	Percent of Course
1. <b>Convex Sets and Functions.</b> Basic properties and examples; operations that preserve convexity; convexity with respect to generalized inequalities; quasiconvex and log-concave functions.	20%
2. <b>Convex Optimization Problems.</b> Linear, quadratic, and geometric programs; generalized inequalities; semidefinite programming; vector optimization and Pareto optimal points.	20%
3. <b>Optimality Conditions and Duality theory.</b> Lagrange dual problem; weak and strong duality; geometric interpretation; Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions; perturbation and sensitivity analysis.	15%
4. <b>Approximation and Fitting.</b> Norm approximation; least-norm problems; regularized approximation; robust approximation.	15%
5. <b>Statistical Estimation.</b> Maximum likelihood estimation; optimal detector design; experiment design.	15%
6. <b>Geometric problems.</b> Extremal volume ellipsoids; centering; classification; facility location.	15%
	<hr/> 100%