

**TO:** The Faculty of the College of Engineering  
**FROM:** The School of Aeronautics and Astronautics  
**RE:** New Graduate Course AAE 56100 Introduction to Convex Optimization

The faculty of the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics have approved the following new course. This action is now submitted to the Engineering Faculty with a recommendation for approval.

**Course No: AAE 56100 Introduction to Convex Optimization**

Sem. 1, Cr 3; Lecture 3

Graduate standing or permission of instructor

**Description:** Introduction to convex analysis, convex optimization problems, algorithms of convex optimization and measures of their complexity, and application of convex optimization in aerospace engineering. Recognition of convex optimization problems that arise in scientific and engineering applications. Introduction to software tools to solve convex optimization problems.

**Reason:** Convex optimization is a subset of optimization that studies problems involving convex sets and convex functions. It has a wide range of applications in many disciplines, such as control systems, optimal design, data analysis and modeling. The property of convexity can make the optimization more tractable than general optimization problems. This course reflects the advantages, new developments, and major challenges in convex optimization. The application examples used in this course are focused on aerospace engineering but the tools and techniques presented are applicable to other engineering fields. This course has been offered four times under the temporary number AAE59000 in Fall 2011, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, and Fall 2015, with enrollment accounts of 32, 17, 13, and 24, respectively. Less than 10% of the enrollment are undergraduate students in Aeronautics and Astronautics, while the majority are graduate students in Aeronautics and Astronautics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Statistics, and Krannert School of Management.



*Tom I-P. Shih, Professor and Head  
School of Aeronautics and Astronautics*

Approved for the faculty of the Schools  
of Engineering by the Engineering  
Curriculum Committee

ECC Minutes #5 Date 11-1-16  
Chairman ECC Ma Datta

PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
REQUEST FOR ADDITION, EXPIRATION,  
OR REVISION OF A GRADUATE COURSE  
(50000-60000 LEVEL)

PRINT

DEPARTMENT School of Aeronautics and Astronautics EFFECTIVE SESSION Fall 2017

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check the items below which describe the purpose of this request.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. New course with supporting documents (complete proposal form)	<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Change in course attributes
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Add existing course offered at another campus	<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Change in instructional hours
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Expiration of a course	<input type="checkbox"/> 9. Change in course description
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Change in course number	<input type="checkbox"/> 10. Change in course requisites
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Change in course title	<input type="checkbox"/> 11. Change in semesters offered
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Change in course credit/type	<input type="checkbox"/> 12. Transfer from one department to another

<b>PROPOSED:</b> Subject Abbreviation <u>AAE</u> Course Number <u>56100</u> Long Title <u>Introduction to Convex Optimization</u> Short Title <u>Intro. Convex Opt.</u>	<b>EXISTING:</b> Subject Abbreviation <u>AAE</u> Course Number <u>59000</u>	<b>TERMS OFFERED</b> Check All That Apply: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fall <input type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> Summer <b>CAMPUS(ES) INVOLVED</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Calumet <input type="checkbox"/> N. Central <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cont Ed <input type="checkbox"/> Tech Statewide <input type="checkbox"/> Ft. Wayne <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W. Lafayette <input type="checkbox"/> Indianapolis
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Abbreviated title will be entered by the Office of the Registrar if omitted. (30 CHARACTERS ONLY)

<b>CREDIT TYPE</b> 1. Fixed Credit: Cr. Hrs. <u>3</u> 2. Variable Credit Range: Minimum Cr. Hrs. _____ (Check One) To <input type="checkbox"/> Or <input type="checkbox"/> Maximum Cr. Hrs. _____ 3. Equivalent Credit: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Thesis Credit: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>COURSE ATTRIBUTES: Check All That Apply</b> 1. Pass/Not Pass Only <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Only <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Repeatable <input type="checkbox"/> Maximum Repeatable Credit: _____ 4. Credit by Examination <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Fees <input type="checkbox"/> Coop <input type="checkbox"/> Lab <input type="checkbox"/> Rate Request <input type="checkbox"/> Include comment to explain fee _____ 6. Registration Approval Type Department <input type="checkbox"/> Instructor <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Variable Title <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Honors <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Full Time Privilege <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Off Campus Experience <input type="checkbox"/>
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Schedule Type	Minutes Per Mtg	Meetings Per Week	Weeks Offered	% of Credit Allocated	Cross-Listed Courses
Lecture	150	2	15	100	
Recitation					
Presentation					
Laboratory					
Lab Prep					
Studio					
Distance					
Clinic					
Experiential					
Research					
Ind. Study					
Pract/Observ					

COURSE DESCRIPTION (INCLUDE REQUISITES/RESTRICTIONS):  
*See attached course description*

\*COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:  
On completing this course, the student shall be able to: 1) Understand basics of convex analysis and convex optimization problems. 2) Understand and develop basic algorithms of convex optimization and their complexities. 3) Apply convex optimization to solve engineering problems.

Calumet Department Head _____ Date _____	Calumet School Dean _____ Date _____	Calumet Director of Graduate Studies _____ Date _____
Fort Wayne Department Head _____ Date _____	Fort Wayne School Dean _____ Date _____	Fort Wayne Director of Graduate Studies _____ Date _____
Indianapolis Department Head _____ Date _____	Indianapolis School Dean _____ Date _____	IUPUI Associate Dean for Graduate Education _____ Date _____
North Central Department Head _____ Date _____	North Central School Dean _____ Date _____	North Central Director of Graduate Studies _____ Date _____
West Lafayette Department Head <i>[Signature]</i> _____ Date _____	West Lafayette College School Dean <i>[Signature]</i> 3/9/16 _____ Date _____	Date Approved by Graduate Council _____ Date _____
Graduate Area Committee Convener _____ Date _____	Graduate Dean _____ Date _____	Graduate Council Secretary _____ Date _____
		West Lafayette Registrar _____ Date _____

**Course Description:**

Introduction to convex analysis, convex optimization problems, algorithms of convex optimization and measures of their complexity, and application of convex optimization in aerospace engineering. Recognition of convex optimization problems that arise in scientific and engineering applications. Introduction to software tools to solve convex optimization problems.

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**IE 330: Probability and Statistics in Engineering II**

Course notes to accompany:

Montgomery and Runger's Applied Statistics and  
Probability for Engineers, 6<sup>th</sup> edition

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Roshi Nateghi, Ph.D.

Assitant Professor

Purdue Univerity

Office: GRIS 264

E-mail: [rnateghi@purdue.edu](mailto:rnateghi@purdue.edu)

Fall 2016

- Please save your conversations for outside of class. This is a large class; even if you whisper, it is disruptive to me and distracting to other students.
- Turn off phones (and anything else that makes noise) before coming into class.
- You should have received an invitation from Piazza. Please post all your questions and comments there instead of emailing me or the TAs. We will respond through Piazza so everyone can see the questions/answers.
- Please read the syllabus very carefully; I will answer any questions you may have about it on Piazza.
- This class is important, there is a lot of work, and it can be difficult. **DO NOT FALL BEHIND.**
- The course grading is 100% objective and NOT scaled. Carefully read and understand the grading structure, including how to challenge a grade.
- I do not take attendance, but there is something due almost every period, so plan on being here. There are free drops for everything; this is in place of makeups. There are no makeups for anything except for the final. There are also opportunities to earn extra credits
- I have no tolerance for cheating. Cheat and you will be reported to the Dean of Students and fail the course.
- I encourage you to work with others on your homework/lecture assignments, but each person must submit their own work. Simply copying another person's homework or lecture assignment is not allowed, and will be considered cheating. Similarly, cutting and pasting solutions from the book or websites will also not be accepted.
- Copying, looking around during a test/quiz, plagiarizing, using cellphones or calculators are among the things considered unethical and will result in you receiving an F for ethics and being reported to the Dean of Students. Do not do it.
- If you do very well, you will be able to skip the final.

### **0.1.2 Accommodations**

All students seeking accommodations should coordinate their accommodations in this class through the DRC. Any students requiring accommodations should notify me as soon as possible. Two weeks advance notice is required for accommodations on tests/exams so that I have time to make appropriate arrangements.

### **0.1.3 Emergency Preparedness**

Please visit the emergency preparedness website:

<http://www.purdue.edu/ehps/emergencypreparedness/>

Also, please see the additional information on emergency preparedness posted on Black Board.

### **0.1.4 Tentative Course Calender**

The course calender on Blackboard contains all the details for this course. Please refer to the calender to find out about homework due dates, dates of tests, lab sessions etc.

**Class:** MWF, 1:30-2:20 in Hampton Hall 1144

## 0.2 SYLLABUS

This course covers chapters 8 through 15 of Montgomery & Runger, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition.

### 0.2.1 Basic Course Information

**Instructor:**

Prof. Roshi Nateghi  
rnateghi@purdue.edu

Instructor Office Hours: Wednesday 7:10-8:10 PM in BRWN 1154 except for 09/07 and 12/07 where the office hours will be in ME 1061.

There will be no office hours on Aug 24th (first week), Oct 5th (test week) and Nov 30th (test week).

**Teaching Assistants:**

Name: Esmail Bahalkeh  
Email: ebalalke@purdue.edu

## TA Office Hours:

Monday 9:00-10:29 AM in GRIS 157D  
Wednesday 9:00-10:29 AM in GRIS 157E

Name: Bikram Kishore Mahajan  
Email: bmahaja@purdue.edu

## TA Office Hours:

Monday 12:15-1:00 PM in GRIS 157E  
Friday 9:00-9.45 AM 157C

### 0.2.2 Learning Outcomes

Upon the completion of this course students should be able to

1. Use statistical software packages (e.g. *R* or Minitab) to perform statistical tests;
2. Compute and interpret statistical confidence, tolerance, and prediction intervals given engineering and scientific data;
3. Conduct and interpret parametric statistical tests (e.g. *t*-test, ANOVA) on engineering and scientific data;
4. Conduct and interpret non-parametric statistical tests on engineering and scientific data;
5. Conduct and interpret regression analysis on engineering and scientific data;
6. Determine the appropriate statistical test or procedure to use on engineering and scientific data;
7. Design basic factorial experiments; and conduct basic statistical process control analysis.

### 0.2.3 Assignments

- There will be nine homework, eight quizzes, and many lecture assignments and in-class exercises during the semester. Homework is usually due by 6 pm on Saturdays with the exception of one (Homework 8). The lecture assignments (LA) will typically be assigned the night before the lab sessions and will be due in class. Lecture assignments should be submitted at the beginning of the class (late submissions won't be accepted). Lecture assignments and in-class exercises will count towards your class participation.
- There will be three 50-minute in-class tests, and a two-hour final. Make sure you always have your full name (that matches with your name on Blackboard). We have a no name; no grade policy.
- Tests are always closed book, closed notes, and NO calculators.



### 0.2.4 Grading

- 25% graded homework problems (9 sets of homework problems, the lowest dropped)
- 10% quizzes (1 per chapter, the lowest dropped)
- 5% class participation (in-class exercises, can miss 20% of them)
- 15% test 1 (Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, in class, 50 minutes)
- 15% test 2 (Oct 31<sup>th</sup>, in class, 50 minutes)
- 15% test 3 (Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, in class, 50 minutes)
- 15% test 4 (TBA, 1 hour, *NOT* optional)
- 15% makeup/cumulative (final, 1 hour, optional), replaces lowest of test 1,2 of 3
- There are no makeup tests. When computing your final grade, I will drop the lowest of the following four tests: the three in-class tests and the cumulative part of the final. (The first part of the final cannot be dropped.)
- **There is also a grade for ethics. This is Pass-Fail. Not cheating and not being involved in any other unethical behavior according to the student honor code will be considered Pass. (Otherwise, it is a failure). Failing ethics will result in you getting an F for the course.**
- If you need less than a 75 on the final to get an A, without dropping your lowest test score, then you will be excused from (both parts of) the final and will get an A+ for the course.
- The following procedure will be used at the end of the semester for grading:  
I will start by setting thresholds (e.g.,  $\geq 90$  is an A,  $\geq 80.0$  is a B, etc.), and assign a non-modified A, B, C, D, or F to each person.  
If you are within one point of getting an A, etc. (e.g., high B+), and you have not missed more than one homework and one quiz, you will be bumped to the next highest grade with a minus modifier (e.g., an A-). So the only way to get an A-, for example, is to get bumped up to it from below the threshold for an A, but only if you meet all the conditions indicated above.

- End of semester "negotiations":  
You can only question your grade regarding accuracy. Accuracy problems include such things as missing grades and incorrect grades, but not: "but I really tried hard and turned everything in." I will not give you extra work, I will not bump you up if you are 0.1 below a threshold, and I will not change the threshold. If you don't want to "just miss" an A, don't be close to the threshold. The time to worry about your grade is during the semester, not at the end of it.
- Homework should be uploaded on Blackboard on the date noted; do not wait until the last minute to do or turn in the homework. NO questions about the homework will be answered on the day it is due. The lowest homework will be dropped.
- Homework turned in by noon the next day is late and will have 15 points deducted. No homework will be accepted later than noon of the day after the homework is due.
- If you feel a mistake was made in grading your assignment:  
*Within 1 week of its return*, email a written explanation of what you think was wrong and why.  
*No in-person discussions about grading are permitted.*  
The TAs (or I) will re-grade the entire assignment, so your grade could go up or down. Change requests are submitted to the TAs that graded the work, unless I graded the assignment (tests). If you don't like the TAs' answer, come to me.

**Supporting Document to the Form 40G  
for a New Graduate Course**

**To:** Purdue University Graduate Council

**From:** Faculty Member: Dengfeng Sun

Department: School of Aeronautics and Astronautics

Campus: West Lafayette

**Date:** March 08, 2016

**Subject:** Proposal for New Graduate Course

**Contact for information if questions arise:** Name: Dengfeng Sun  
Phone: (510) 409-7869  
Email: dsun@purdue.edu  
Address: 701 W. Stadium Ave., West Lafayette, IN

**Course Subject Abbreviation and Number:** AAE56100

**Course Title:** Introduction to Convex Optimization

**Course Description:**

Introduction to convex analysis, convex optimization problems, algorithms of convex optimization and measures of their complexity, and application of convex optimization in aerospace engineering. Recognition of convex optimization problems that arise in scientific and engineering applications. Introduction to software tools to solve convex optimization problems.

**Semesters Offered:**

Every Fall semester.

**A. Justification for the Course:**

Convex optimization is a subset of optimization that studies problems involving convex sets and convex functions. It has a wide range of applications in many disciplines, such as control systems, optimal design, data analysis and modeling. The property of convexity can make the optimization more tractable than general

optimization problems. This course reflects the advantages, new developments, and major challenges in convex optimization. The application examples used in this course are focused on aerospace engineering but the tools and techniques presented are applicable to other engineering fields. This course has been offered four times under the temporary number AAE59000 in Fall 2011, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, and Fall 2015, with enrollment accounts of 32, 17, 13, and 24, respectively. Less than 10% of the enrollment are undergraduate students in Aeronautics and Astronautics, while the majority are graduate students in Aeronautics and Astronautics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Statistics, and Krannert School of Management.

- Anticipated enrollment
  - Undergraduate           2
  - Graduate                 18

## **B. Learning Outcomes and Method of Evaluation or Assessment:**

Course Objectives: On completing this course, the student shall be able to: 1) understand the basics of convex analysis and convex optimization problems, 2) understand and develop algorithms for convex optimization and measures of their complexity, 3) apply convex optimization to solve engineering problems.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

Student learning outcomes (knowledge, skills, communication, critical thinking, and ethical research) that address the three (3) objectives above, are listed in the following table:

- Objective 1: Understand the basics of convex analysis and convex optimization problems.
  - **Knowledge:** Fundamental knowledge in properties of convex sets, convex functions, and convex optimization problems.
  - **Skills:** Convexity analysis of sets and functions. Recognize and formulate convex optimization problems.
- Objective 2: Understand and develop algorithms for convex optimization and measures of their complexity.
  - **Knowledge:** Basic algorithms (first order, second order methods) of convex optimization. Fundamental knowledge on measures of the complexity of algorithms.
  - **Skills:** Derive and implement first and second order algorithms and perform complexity analysis.

- **Critical thinking:** Identify the assumptions (such as continuity) made in mathematical models and understand the possible limitations in applying numerical algorithms for convex problems.
- Objective 3: Apply convex optimization to solve engineering problems.
  - **Knowledge:** Mathematical modeling of engineering problems using convex optimization, and solution methods using convex optimization algorithms.
  - **Skills:** Implement convex optimization models and algorithms using software tools.
  - **Communication:** Write a technical report in the style, format and standard of a peer-reviewed journal article.
  - **Critical thinking:** Evaluate published results. Comparison of results from different mathematical models and algorithms.
  - **Ethical research:** Properly cite references in technical reports.
- Grading Criteria

<b>Grading Criteria</b> (replace with check for all that apply)	<b>Weight Toward Final Grade</b>
Papers and Projects	40%
Homework	60%

- Methods of Instruction

<b>Hours per Week</b>	<b>Method of Instruction</b> (replace with check for all that apply)	<b>Contribution to Outcomes</b>
3	Lecture	Lectures will be used to contribute to all the outcomes.

**C. Prerequisite(s):**

Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

**D. Course Instructor(s):**

Name	Rank	Dept.	Graduate Faculty or expected date
Dengfeng Sun	Associate Professor	AAE	Yes

### E. Course Outline:

- 1) General optimization (2 weeks)
- 2) Convex sets and convex functions (2 weeks)
- 3) Smooth convex optimization (3 weeks)
- 4) Nonsmooth convex optimization (2 weeks)
- 5) Convex optimization examples (2 weeks)
- 6) Self-concordant functions and self-concordant barriers (2 weeks)
- 7) Application of convex optimization (2 weeks)

### F. Reading List (including course text):

Convex Optimization, by Stephen Boyd and Lieven Vandenberghe, Cambridge University Press, 2004.

### G. Library Resources

Not necessary.

### H. Course Syllabus

AAE 59000: Introduction to Convex Optimization  
Fall 2015

1. Instructor Information
  - Dr. Dengfeng Sun, Associate Professor of AAE
  - Office: ARMS 3217
  - Phone: x4-5718
  - Email: [dsun@purdue.edu](mailto:dsun@purdue.edu)
  - Office hours: Wednesday 2:30-3:30PM in ARMS 3217
2. Course Information
  - Description  
This course aims to introduce students basics of convex analysis and convex optimization problems, basic algorithms of convex optimization and their complexities, and applications of convex optimization in aerospace engineering. This course also trains students to recognize convex optimization problems that arise in scientific and engineering applications, and introduces software tools to solve convex optimization problems.
  - Prerequisites  
Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

- Textbook  
Convex Optimization, by Stephen Boyd and Lieven Vandenberghe, Cambridge University Press, free downloadable from Prof. Stephen Boyd's webpage at Stanford University.
3. Course Objectives
- On completing this course, the student shall be able to: 1) Understand basics of convex analysis and convex optimization problems. 2) Understand and develop basic algorithms of convex optimization and their complexities. 3) Apply convex optimization to solve engineering problems.
4. Course Policies
- Attendance  
The instructor will not take attendance, however, you are highly encouraged to attend every class. Projects and homeworks may require knowledge of ANY material presented in class. If you must miss a class, you are responsible for all covered lecture material, assignments and announcements made.
  - Grading criteria: Homework 60%, course project 40%.
5. Class Schedule
- 1) General optimization (2 weeks)
  - 2) Convex sets and convex functions (2 weeks)
  - 3) Smooth convex optimization (3 weeks)
  - 4) Nonsmooth convex optimization (2 weeks)
  - 5) Convex optimization examples (2 weeks)
  - 6) Self-concordant functions and self-concordant barriers (2 weeks)
  - 7) Application of convex optimization (2 weeks)
6. Other Information
- If you have a disability which requires some special accommodation, please let me know within the first two weeks of the semester to discuss the appropriateness of the instructor's methods in this class or any other accommodation you may need.
  - In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. If such unusual circumstances arise, we will notify you via email. A special note about highly-contagious disease – We do not want ill students in class spreading the virus. If you are diagnosed with any highly contagious disease, contact Professor Sun via email ([dsun@purdue.edu](mailto:dsun@purdue.edu)) to make arrangements.