

Introduction

Mechatronics ME374



Philosophy

- A goal of this course is to teach self-sufficiency. As such this course is taught in a guided trial by fire manner
- Students are encouraged to ideate their own solutions to the problems both posed and encountered throughout
- As a student it is important to learn how to search the web for answers as there is nearly an infinite amount of information available on almost any topic
- To improve one's search skills it may be beneficial to browse through Google's power search course:
<http://www.powersearchingwithgoogle.com/course>



Course Objectives

- Introduce students to Mechatronics in a hands on manner with an emphasis on semi-autonomous and intelligent systems we call aiS
- Give students the necessary tools to create and prototype smart products of their own design
- Encourage students to modify existing technologies to create new ones



This is not English class!

- Forget what your teachers said about Wikipedia being a valid source, and regular web pages in general
- The internet allows everyone and anyone to share their knowledge with the world
- However, read everything with a grain of salt



The Final Product

- You can view a video showing the final product you will learn to produce in this class here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1UU9LP_OoM



Hacking is not bad

- The word hacking used to be synonymous with breaking into people's computers
- Now the word has an alternative meaning in the Mechatronics context
 - It is the process of reverse engineering and repurposing technologies to create a new product to solve life's problems
- An excellent site that depicts lots of cool projects people are working on is: <http://hackaday.com/>



About the First Course Designer

- You can find out more about Matt Bilsky and his various Mechatronics projects at:
<http://MattBilsky.com>