SDSC4064: RELIABILITY ENGINEERING

Effective Term
Semester A 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title
Reliability Engineering

Subject Code
SDSC - School of Data Science
Course Number
4064

Academic Unit
School of Data Science (DS)

College/School
School of Data Science (DS)

Course Duration
One Semester

Credit Units
3

Level
B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction
English

Medium of Assessment
English

Prerequisites
SDSC3102 Quality Technologies

Precursors
Nil

Equivalent Courses
Nil

Exclusive Courses
Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The aim of the course is to provide students with knowledge in concepts, methodology, and tools of reliability engineering. On completion of the course, the students should be able to construct models for the estimation and improvement of reliability parameters of manufactured products and components.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Define the concepts of reliability, common reliability functions, parameters and methods of their modeling and prediction.	10	x		
2	Identify importance of statistical distributions for modeling failure data and physical meanings of model parameters.	20	x		
3	Estimate reliability functions and parameters of an item or a product/component system using relevant tools and databases.	40	x	x	
4	Evaluate maintainability and availability of product/component systems, and different maintenance strategies.	20	x	x	
5	Describe the benefits and elements of reliability program and product liability management.	10	x		

A1: Attitude
Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability
Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments
Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

	LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	In lectures, students will learn theories and tools of reliability engineering and their industrial applications. Mini-lectures and small-group exercises will be used to facilitate their understanding	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	39 hours/ semester

2	Tutorials	In the tutorials, students will have the opportunities to (i) familiarize and apply statistical tools taught in lectures through practical problem solving in team-based exercises, and (ii) appreciate the use of commercial reliability analysis software Relex in the modeling and prediction of item and system reliability.	3, 4, 5	In or after class
3	Laboratory Work	Students will perform team-based exercises to design, conduct and analyze reliability experiments using Relex.	2	In or after class

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Quiz(es)	1, 2, 3, 4	10	
2	Assignments	2, 3, 4, 5	20	
3	Laboratory Report	3	10	

Continuous Assessment (%)

40

Examination (%)

60

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Additional Information for ATs

Note: To pass the course, apart from obtaining a minimum of 40% in the overall mark, a student must also obtain a minimum mark of 30% in both continuous assessment and examination components.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Quiz(s)

Criterion

30 – 40 minutes short quiz(s) to assess students' understanding of the reliability concepts and the modeling and prediction techniques introduced in the lectures.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)
Moderate

Marginal (D)
Basic

Failure (F)
Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task
Assignments

Criterion
Students' ability to analyze reliability data, apply relevant statistical tools with the help of software, and draw informed conclusions in solving practical reliability problems are assessed. Explanation and presentation of results are also assessed.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)
High

Good (B+, B, B-)
Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)
Moderate

Marginal (D)
Basic

Failure (F)
Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task
Laboratory Report

Criterion
The laboratory report assesses students' ability to design, conduct and analyze reliability experiments. Interpretations of the numerical results and their practical implications are particularly sought for.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)
High

Good (B+, B, B-)
Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)
Moderate

Marginal (D)
Basic

Failure (F)
Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Examination

Criterion

Examination questions are designed to assess student’ s level of achievement of the intended learning outcomes, with balanced emphasis placed on both conceptual understanding and practical applications of the various reliability modeling and prediction methods introduced.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Additional Information for AR

The quiz(s), tutorial exercises and laboratory report will be numerically-marked, while examination will be numerically-marked and grades-awarded accordingly.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

- **Concepts and Mathematical Models for Reliability**

Concept of reliability, quality and safety, probability and distributions for reliability

- **Reliability and Life Cycle**

Reliability parameters: MTTF and failure rate, failure model and pattern – Normal/Exponential/Weibull distribution, bathtub curve and life cycle

- **Reliability Testing and Estimation**

Burn-in testing, lift testing, acceptance testing, accelerated life testing, point and interval estimation of parameters from observed data, analysis of censored data, stress-strength analysis

- **Databases of Failure Rates of Electronics/Mechanical Components**

MIL-HDBK-217, Bellcore (Telcordia) reliability prediction procedure for electronic equipment, reliability estimation using general failure rate data

- **System Reliability and Redundancy**

Reliability block diagram, parallel and series configuration, active and standby redundancy, redundancy allocation

- **System Safety Analysis**

Fault tree, event tree, FMEA, qualitative/quantitative approaches, minimum cut-set

- **Maintainability and Availability**

Maintenance time distribution, preventive maintenance strategy and schedule, maintainability prediction and design

- **Reliability Management**

Reliability function and management in organization, product safety and liability

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Lecture notes

Additional Readings

	Title
1	E.E., Lewis, Introduction to Reliability Engineering, 2nd ed., Wiley, 1996.
2	Charles, E. Ebeling, An Introduction to Reliability and Maintainability Engineering, McGraw-HILL , 1997
3	Dimitri Kececioglu, Reliability Engineering Handbook, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. : Prentice-Hall, 1991