

Subject: ECE 1111: Engineering Computation I (Fall 2024): HW #5 - Learning Emacs

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This one is HUGE!

This is an excellent semester break activity that will help you get a jump start on the course and prepare you for success.

In this course, I am going to use emacs as my text editor. In the past, we have allowed students to choose their own text editor. That simply hasn't worked. So this semester we will require you to learn emacs.

Emacs has a lot of nice features you can exploit, including multiple buffers, user-defined macros, automated code formatting (for most languages), and built-in compilation and debugging tools.

To learn about emacs, start here:

<https://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/LearningEmacs>

Using a text editor effectively is a critical skill in this class. It takes months to become an advanced user of emacs, so it is good to get an early start. That is why you are receiving this message. We want you to spend time during the break learning emacs.

*** You must become an advanced user of some text editor! ***

I cannot stress this enough – it is a major reason students fail this course. They just don't spend enough time digging into a text editor and learning how it can support your programming needs. So everything they do takes much longer. Spend the break becoming a power user of emacs – your life won't be the same after that 😊

The lectures from last semester are online as videos in case you want to see what we specifically cover.

Happy emacs'ing...

–Joe