

Safe Drone Flying: A Comprehensive Guide for Enthusiasts - Syllabus

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Minicourse Syllabus

Course Description

This virtual minicourse is designed for recreational drone enthusiasts seeking to enhance their knowledge and skills in safe and responsible drone operation. Participants will learn essential airspace regulations, risk mitigation strategies, and gain an understanding of the certification process. By the end of the course, learners will have the foundational knowledge necessary to fly drones responsibly and legally, while also preparing for potential professional advancement in the field.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Understand the fundamental principles of safe drone flying, including airspace regulations and safety guidelines.
- Demonstrate proficiency in drone operation techniques and maneuvers through practical exercises and simulations.
- Identify potential hazards and risks associated with drone flying and implement appropriate safety measures to mitigate them.
- Navigate the process of obtaining necessary certifications and licenses for advanced drone operation.
- Apply ethical and responsible drone flying practices to protect personal safety, privacy, and the environment.

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Instructor Contact

Instructor: Gustavo Javier Santamaría Echeverría

Email: gustavo.guxarts@gmail.com

Office Hours: By appointment via email or online meeting.

Course Prerequisites

No formal prerequisites are required. Basic familiarity with technology and an interest in drones are recommended.

Technology Requirements

- A reliable computer with internet access
- Access to a recreational drone for practical exercises
- Basic video conferencing software (e.g., Zoom, Google Meet)
- PDF reader and word processing software

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on the following components:

- Discussion Participation: 20%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Practical Exercises: 30%
- Final Reflection Assignment: 30%

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Grade Scale:

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

F: Below 60%

Late Policies

Assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a 10% penalty for each day late, up to a maximum of five days. Submissions more than five days late will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made.

Schedule of Instructional Events

Week 1: Introduction to Drone Flying and Safety Guidelines

Week 2: Understanding Airspace Regulations

Week 3: Risk Mitigation Strategies and Safe Flying Practices

Week 4: Certification Process and Ethical Flying

Week 5: Final Reflection and Sharing Expertise

Academic Honesty/Integrity Policy

All learners are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of dishonesty will result in disciplinary action, including potential removal from the course.

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Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require accommodations due to a disability, please contact the instructor at the earliest opportunity. Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure equal access to all course materials and activities.