

Physics 101: General Physics

Course Information for Fall 2013

Instructor: Prof. Josh Erlich

Office: Small 332B

Phone: 221-3763

Office hours: Wed 3-4pm, Thurs 3-4pm, and by appointment at other times

e-mail: jxerli@wm.edu

Grader: TBA

Lecture: MWF 11:00-11:50 in Small 110

Help Desk: In addition to office hours of the lecturer and problem session instructors, a help desk staffed by Physics graduate students is available for help with assignments. Schedule TBA.

SPS: Members of the Society of Physics Students offer free tutoring Thursday evenings. Schedule TBA.

Textbook: Douglas C. Giancoli, *Physics for Scientists & Engineers*, Fourth Edition, 2008. Chapters 1-16 will be covered this semester.

Math Requirements: PHYS 101 is a calculus-based course, designed for students who intend to concentrate in the physical sciences. Students not already familiar with calculus should take Calculus (MATH 111) concurrently. Students who desire to learn the same material without calculus should take PHYS 107 instead. Students who are already comfortable with calculus and have taken an AP physics course may wish to take the honors version of the course (PHYS 101H) instead.

Registration: You are required to register for the lecture (PHYS 101) and a problem session (PHYS 101P). Most students should also register for a section of the associated lab (PHYS 101L).

Blackboard: This and other course documents will be posted on the course Blackboard site. If you are registered for the course, you should be able to access the site at blackboard.wm.edu.

Laptops and Cell Phones: Unless granted an exception due to a special need, laptop computers will not be permitted during the lecture. Similarly, all cell phones must be put away and turned to a silent mode during class.

Problem Sessions: Each week you will attend a 50-minute problem session taught by a faculty member. You will also be asked to present solutions to problems on the board, and your presentations will count towards your final grade. Some exam problems may be taken from examples worked through during the problem sessions.

Homework: A set of homework problems administered through Enhanced WebAssign is due every week. Homework will be due at 11:59pm on Thursdays. In addition, you will be required in some weeks to prepare a written solution for one designated problem. Bring this solution with you to your problem session in the section immediately preceding the homework due date.

Laboratory: Each week students enrolled in PHYS 101L will perform an experiment in the laboratory (PHYS 101L) related to the PHYS 101 course material. The lab grade is separate from your grade for PHYS 101/101P.

Tests: There will be three 50-minute closed-book tests. Please bring a calculator and writing implements. Tests are graded by faculty members associated with the course together with the course grader.

Make-up Tests: A score of zero is recorded for missed 50-minute tests. You may request a make-up test if your absence is due to illness. You must provide a doctor's letter that indicates your inability to take the exam as scheduled, and a phone number where the doctor can be reached. You may also request a make-up test if you are required to be out of town on one of the test dates due to an athletic competition. You must notify the lecturer of scheduling conflicts well in advance of the test date and provide a letter from your coach.

Final Exam: The comprehensive final exam will be given on Friday, December 13 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Please note that only the office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies is empowered to grant requests for rescheduling of final exams.

Grading: Your problem session instructor is responsible for assigning your final grade according to the following formula:

$$\text{Course grade} = 5\% \text{ Problem Session} + 20\% \text{ Homework} + 45\% \text{ Tests} + 30\% \text{ Final Exam}$$

Letter Grades:

A	92-100	B	80-83	C	67-70	D	54-57
A-	88-91	B-	75-79	C-	62-66	D-	50-53
B+	84-87	C+	71-74	D+	58-61	F	< 50

General Education Requirement: Phys 101 satisfies the GER 2A (physical sciences) requirement. Phys 101L satisfies the laboratory requirement for GER 2.