

# Physics 101: General Physics

## Course Information for Fall 2011

**Instructor:** Prof. Josh Erlich

**Office:** Small 332B

**Phone:** 221-3763

**Office hours:** W 4-5, F 2-3

**e-mail:** jxerli@wm.edu

**Grader:** TBA

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

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

**Math Requirements:** Physics 101 is a calculus-based course, designed for students who intend to concentrate in the physical sciences. It is recommended that you take Calculus (Math 111) concurrently, if you have not taken it already. Students who desire to learn the same material without calculus should take Phys 107-108 instead.

**Registration:** You are required to register for the lecture (Phys 101), a laboratory section (Phys 101L), and a problem session (Phys 101P).

**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](http://blackboard.wm.edu). Some documents will also be posted at [www.physics.wm.edu/~erlich/101F11/](http://www.physics.wm.edu/~erlich/101F11/)

**Laptops and Cell Phones:** Unless granted an exception due to a special need, laptop computers will not be permitted during the lecture. Students with open computers in class will be asked to leave the room. 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. Certain exam problems may be taken from examples worked through during the problem sessions. Reviews for the 50-minute tests will be presented in the problem sessions immediately before each scheduled test date.

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

**Laboratory:** Each week you will perform an experiment in the laboratory. The lab grade is part of the final grade for the course, with the added rule that you cannot pass the course without passing the lab.

**Tests:** There will be three 50-minute closed-book tests. Please bring a calculator. 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 states the nature of the illness 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 Monday, December 5 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Please note that only the office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies is empowered to grant requests for rescheduling final exams.

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

$$\text{Course grade} = 20\% \text{ Lab} + 15\% \text{ Homework} + 40\% \text{ Tests} + 25\% \text{ Final Exam}$$

**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, including the laboratory 101L, satisfies the GER 2A (physical sciences) requirement as well as the laboratory requirement for GER 2.