

Physics 101: General Physics

Course Information for Fall 2012

Instructor: Prof. Josh Erlich

Office: Small 332B

Phone: 221-3763

Office hours: Wed 3-4pm (Phys 201 priority), Wed 4-5pm (Phys 101 priority)

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Shaoyang Jia (sjia@email.wm.edu)

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.

Textbook: R. Serway and J. Jewett, *Physics for Scientists & Engineers*, Eighth Edition, Cengage 2010. Chapters 1-18 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 students not already familiar with calculus take Calculus (Math 111) concurrently. Students who desire to learn the same material without calculus should take Phys 107-108 instead. Students who are already comfortable with calculus and have taken an AP physics course may wish to take the honors version (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. 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. 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 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 preceding the 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. Tests are graded by faculty members associated with the course together with the course grader(s).

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 Tuesday, December 18 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:

$$\text{Course grade} = 25\% \text{ Homework} + 45\% \text{ Tests} + 30\% \text{ Final Exam}$$

Letter Grades:

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|----|--------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|
| 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.