

How to Succeed in PHY 2020: Introduction to the Principles of Physics

Fall 2015

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(New Physics Building, 15 years old and waiting for a wealthy donor to give our building a new name.)

You are all smart enough to get a degree from UF without getting an education. Don't make that mistake.

This course is appropriate for students who have had no more than a minimal introduction to physics. Phy2020 is typically used as preparation for some more advanced introduction to physics.

Announcements: You are responsible for announcements made at the beginning of class. In particular, changes in the schedule or homework assignments along with descriptions of upcoming tests are announced at the beginning of class.

How to succeed in this course:

- Take detailed notes during the lectures—this keeps you engaged. If you miss class, then borrow notes from a fellow student. It is your responsibility (not mine) to find out what you missed in class.
- Read the appropriate chapter in the text before coming to lecture. However, the reading assignments and the lectures are unfortunately not always tightly connected.
- Review the examples that I give in class. Use your imagination to come up with your own variations of my examples.
- Keep up on a regular basis. In physics, keeping up is much easier than catching up.
- If you email me, then use your gatorlink account—this is the primary way that I use to identify each of you. If I don't respond to your email then please ask me the same question in the lecture room just before class starts. I am almost always 15 minutes early for class.
- Discussions via telephone or e-mail are not particularly good ways to learn or to teach physics.
- If you have physics questions, then please see me during my office hours, or make an appointment for some other time. If you e-mail me with a physics question, then I will ask that you come in to see me during office hours. Or, if it is appropriate, I will try to answer the question during the next lecture.

Your Expectations:

- You should expect to have lectures start on time and to be clear and relevant.
- You should expect to have tests which reflect the principles and ideas that were discussed in class, read by you in the textbook or covered in the homework assignments.

- You should expect to have homework assignments and tests graded and returned promptly.
- You should expect me to meet these expectations.

My Expectations:

- I expect each of you to be on time for every class. If you happen to be late or to miss class, then please ask a classmate to fill you in on what was missed. Please, don't ask me what I said — it would take fifty minutes and a blackboard for me to answer. In particular, please don't ask if I said anything important. Everything that I say is important, or I would not have bothered to say it.
- I expect each of you to submit all homework assignments on time. Homework is an integral part of the course. You are encouraged to work together. You are encouraged to form self-organized study sessions, but you must each submit your own homework in your own words, equations and handwriting.
- Dishonesty of any sort will result in failing this course. *Any misrepresentation* of other's work as your own is dishonest. *Any false information* regarding an excuse for not doing a homework assignments or for missing a test is dishonest.
- I take the University Honor Code seriously, and consider any form of dishonesty in this course to be a personal insult.

A comment about excuses:

I am not interested in why you were not able to fulfill some requirement of this course. Under every circumstance that I care to discuss, there are reasonable ways for you to deal with the consequences.

If you have read and understood the syllabus then you should understand that there is no reason for you to provide me with an excuse.