

L00 Expectations and Guidelines

This is a survey course on the development of physics in the late 19th and early 20th century. In this course I will focus on the development of ideas, conceptual understanding, and their applications to aid your understanding. I may skip some detailed derivations that do not facilitate understanding nor provide insights.

1. Develop mathematical skills that will be used in this course and the higher level courses in the future.
2. Build habit to succeed:
 - Do not try to memorize everything (only a few things to memorize in physics).
 - Always try to ask yourself physical meaning of equations or results.
 - Know the limits of validity of a model and/or an equation.
 - Check if your answer makes sense in the dimension, the order of magnitude, and specific limits.
3. Read the textbook preferably before the class.
4. Attend lectures and record your own notes. I will not post my lecture notes. If you misses a class, I can let you make a copy of my notes.
5. Do your HW and finish your calculations.
6. Use the office hours wisely. I am here to make you succeed not to grade you out.
7. Quiz: problems worked in my lectures. If you have well-organized notes, you will do well.
8. Exam: 60 - 70% of exams will be from your HW problems (almost identical). Therefore, I expect you get at least 60% in exams.
9. HW solutions will be provided and selected HW's will be reviewed in class.
10. In both quizzes and exams, you rarely need to use a calculator since most of the problems would not ask numerical answers. If a numerical answer is needed, *1 significant digit answers with the correct order of magnitude* would be sufficient. For example, rather than $324.6 \approx 3 \times 10^2$ or 3.2×10^2 should be good.