

Syllabus for PHY 3101 Modern Physics Spring 2007

Instructor: Steven Detweiler

Announcements:

Changes in the schedule or homework assignments and descriptions of upcoming tests are announced at the beginning of class. Some of this information also will appear on the course homepage:

<http://www.phys.ufl.edu/courses/phy3101/spring07>

Tests:

There are two in-class tests, and one cumulative final exam, given according to the official University exam schedule.

Each test is likely to have two parts: The first part is multiple choice and closed book—similar in format to what you had in phy2048-49. A formulae sheet will be made available for you. After completing the first part, you will hand in your pink scantron sheet. Only after finishing the first part and handing in your answer sheet, you may begin on the short answer part of the test—this part will resemble homework questions. **For the short answer part only** you may use the textbook and your own hand written notes. Your notes must

1. be in your original handwriting,
2. may not include any photocopies or any computer printouts,
3. and ought to include your own homework assignments.

If you miss one of the in-class tests with a good, verifiable, well-documented excuse then you may take a two-hour makeup test worth a total of 40 points. (see the *Comment about excuses*, below.) This makeup test will be given on Friday, April 27. You must discuss this with me ahead of time. However, *if no one requests this makeup exam*, then each of you will be rewarded with 20 bonus homework-points—the equivalent of ten correct homework answers (see “Bonus homework-points” below).

You must take the final exam at the scheduled time. I will allow no exceptions.

Each in-class test is worth 40 points towards your final grade, and the final exam is worth 80 points.

Homework:

Weekly homework assignments are due on Wednesdays. Look at the Homework webpage for details. Each question of each assigned problem will be graded on a scale of 0, 1 or 2 homework-points. Your entire homework score will be normalized and worth 50 points toward your final grade.

Homework is due at the beginning of class. At that time, you may request a no-cost extension until 5:00pm of the same day. Any homework submitted after 5:00pm and before 5:00pm of the following day will be graded at half-credit. No homework will be accepted past this second 5:00pm deadline.

Please work together on your homework assignments. But, your submitted homework must be in your own words, equations and handwriting.

Final Grading:

Two in-class test are each worth 40 points. The final exam is worth 80 points. And the homework is worth 100 points. Thus, the maximum total score in this class is 210 points, plus an addition from any bonus homework-points.

The grading scale is

- 170 pts and above: A
- 125 pts and above: at least a B
- 80 pts and above: at least a C

B+, C+ and D+ grades will also be awarded, but their cutoffs won't be determined until after the final exam.

Grade of Incomplete:

If you miss both in-class tests, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences requires that a grade of "I" (Incomplete) may not be assigned unless all three of the following requirements are met: (1) The student and instructor have discussed the situation prior to the final exam. (2) The student has completed a major portion of the course with a passing grade. (3) The student is unable to complete course requirements because of documented circumstances beyond his or her control. See the Liberal Arts and Sciences form on the Notes and Solutions webpage.

Bonus Homework-Points:

Occasionally, there will be special bonus awards which might be worth *bonus homework-points*. Two bonus homework-points are equivalent to one correct homework answer. The awarding of bonus homework-points will be described in class at the appropriate time.

How to succeed in this course:

- Read the relevant chapters in the text before coming to lecture. The lectures are much clearer if you are properly prepared.
- Take detailed notes during the lectures—this keeps you engaged.
- Invest at least ten hours reading the text, reviewing class notes and problem-solving per week outside of class.
- Work as many problems as possible on a weekly basis.
- Keep up on a regular basis. In physics, keeping up is much easier than catching up.
- 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 am likely to suggest 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.
- Discussions via telephone or e-mail are not particularly good ways to learn or to teach physics. If you email me then use your gatorlink account—this is the primary way that I use to identify each of you.

Students with disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to

the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Your Expectations:

- You should expect to have lectures start on time and to be relevant.
- You should expect to have homework assignments and tests graded and returned promptly.
- You should expect to have tests which reflect the principles and ideas discussed in the lectures, read by you in the textbook or covered in the homework assignments.
- I will try to meet your 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.
- I expect each of you to submit all homework assignments. Homework is an integral part of the course. You are encouraged to work together, but you must each submit your own homework in your own words, equations and handwriting.
- Please turn off your cell-phone when you enter the classroom. Having the gator fight song, as your ring-tone, blaring out of your backpack makes a poor impression on your instructor.
- 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 missed homework assignments or missed tests 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 have tried hard to structure this course so that you will have no need to provide me with an excuse. Over the years I've heard every excuse that you can imagine. Some are good. Some are ridiculous. Before even considering an excuse, I require documentation. For example, an excuse involving a doctor should include an original receipt (not a copy) which shows the doctor's name, phone number, time and date of appointment. An excuse involving parents or close relatives should include a signed, explanatory note from a parent or close relative which includes an address and phone number. An excuse involving a towed automobile should include a receipt from the towing company along with documentation such as a Florida-tag registration which shows ownership of the automobile. Please warn the towing company, doctor, parent or close relative to expect a phone call from me.