

Syllabus for PHY 3101 Modern Physics Spring 2008

Instructor: Steven Detweiler

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. Some of this information will also appear on the course homepage:

<http://www.phys.ufl.edu/courses/phy3101/spring08>

Final Grading:

Three in-class test are each worth 40 points. The final exam is worth 80 points and the homework is worth a maximum of 50 points — which might include bonus-homework points. Thus, the maximum total score in this class is 250 points, plus an addition from any bonus homework-points.

At the end of the semester, you may be certain that anyone whose final letter grade is higher than yours also has a higher point total.

The grading scale is

- 220 pts and above: at least an A
- 180 pts and above: at least a B
- 130 pts and above: at least a C

D+, C+ and B+ grades are likely to be awarded, but the cutoff distinguishing between B and B+, for example, won't be determined until after the final exam.

There will be no make-up tests. If you miss a test then your grade will not be determined by the above grading scale. Rather, I will use my best judgement to assign your final grade in a manner that is fair to you as well as to the majority of students who take all of the tests at the scheduled time.

Tests:

There are three in-class tests, and one cumulative final exam which is given at a time determined by the official University exam schedule.

Each test will have two parts: The first part is multiple choice and similar in format to what you had in phy2048-49. The second part is a “short-answer” format which resembles the homework problems. You may use the textbook and your own handwritten notes. Your notes:

1. must be in your original handwriting,
2. may not include any photocopies or any computer printouts,
3. and ought to include your own homework assignments. Print-outs of the homework questions are allowed, but the printed homework solutions are specifically not allowed.

All three in-class tests and the final exam are required. There will be no make-up tests. If you miss a test then your grade will not be determined by the above schedule. Rather, I will use my best judgement to assign your final grade in a manner that is fair to you as well as to the majority of students who take all of the tests at the scheduled time.

If you miss two in-class tests or the final exam then you will receive a grade of I, if you also meet the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences requirements for a grade of I as described below.

You must take the final exam at the time determined by the official University exam schedule. There will be no exceptions, unless the entire class unanimously agrees to take the exam as a group at a different day or time for which a room is available.

Homework:

Weekly homework assignments are due on Mondays. 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.

Expect to see homework problems on material from the assigned reading that has not yet been covered in class.

Homework is due at the beginning of class on Monday. You are automatically granted a no-cost extension until 4:30pm of the same day. Any homework submitted after 4:30pm on Monday and before 4:30pm of the following Tuesday will be graded at half-credit. No homework will be accepted past this second 4:30pm deadline. Homework not submitted in the classroom on Monday, should be handed to me in my office, #2071, or slid under my office door. Homework left in my mailbox might or might not be graded.

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

Grade of Incomplete:

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 might be special bonus awards which might be worth *bonus homework-points*. One bonus homework-point is 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. If you miss class, then borrow notes from a fellow student. It is your responsibility (not mine) to find out what was discussed in class.
- Invest at least seven 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 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.
- 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. 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.

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 that were discussed in the lectures, read by you in the textbook or covered in the homework assignments.
- You should expect me 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. Please, don't ask me what I said — it would take fifty minutes and a blackboard for me to answer.
- 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 an excuse for homework assignments or 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. I don't know why any of you would want to present me with an excuse, but some of you will anyway. Before even listening to 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. Read the next section on Academic Honesty.

Academic Honesty: The University of Florida Honor Code applies to all aspects of the course. Violators of the academic honesty code will receive a failing grade (E) in the course. Thus, a student who has a B grade, but cheats to try to get an A would receive an E in the course and risk possible expulsion from the university for a repeat violation. *Any misrepresentation* of other's work as your own is a violation of the University honor code. *Any false information* regarding an excuse for homework assignments or tests is a violation of the University honor code.