

Classical Mechanics, PHY6246

Course Information Fall 2013

Lecturer: C. B. Thorn, NPB 2069, 392-5701

Lectures: NPB 1101, MWF 3rd period (9:35-10:25am)

Office Hours: MW, 5th period (11:45a-12:45pm) and by appointment.

Course webpage: <http://www.phys.ufl.edu/~thorn/homepage/cminfo.html>

Grader: TBA

email:

Office hour:

Textbook: *Classical Mechanics*, Goldstein, Poole, and Saiko, 3rd Edition (Addison-Wesley,2002)

Lectures: I will try to make my lectures self-contained and my lecture notes will eventually be posted on line. Goldstein's textbook will be a major source of homework problems and a valuable alternative perspective on the subject. We will try to cover most of the material in Chapters 2-6, 8-10, and 12. Examples from relativistic mechanics will be used throughout the course.

Examinations: A midterm exam (tentative date: 23 October) will comprise 25% of your course grade and a final examination (12 Dec, 10am-12n) will comprise 50% of your course grade. Both exams will be closed book.

Homework: Problem sets containing 3,4, or 5 problems will be assigned on approximately a weekly basis and, together with class participation, will comprise 25% of your course grade. A score for each problem will be recorded: on a scale of 0 to 10, if handed in by the due date; on a scale of 0 to 8 if handed in within one week after the due date; and on a scale of 0 to 5 if more than 1 week late.

Homework Presentation: (1) For 1 point, start the solution of each problem on a **new page**, headed by a **descriptive title**. (2) Prepare each solution as an essay explaining all important steps. Up to 9 points will be awarded for accuracy, clarity of reasoning and exposition.

Collaboration and penalty for copying: I encourage open discussion with your fellow students on the assigned problems. However, if you can't solve a problem on your own, you don't understand it! Therefore, write up your solutions individually using your own reasoning in your own words. Any submitted solution, which is found to be essentially identical to another submitted solution or to a solution posted on the department webpages or elsewhere on the internet, will be given a score of zero.