Quantum Mechanics I, PHY6645
Course Information Fall 2016

Lecturer: C. B. Thorn, NPB 2069, 392-5701
Lectures: NPB 1101, MWF 4th period (10:40-11:30 am)
Office Hours: MW, 5th period (11:45-12:45pm) and by appointment.
Course webpage: http://www.phys.ufl.edu/~thorn/homepage/qminfo.html

Grader: Gaoli Chen
email: gchen@ufl.edu
Office hour: M Periods 7, 8, NPB2060


Lectures: I will try to make my lectures self-contained and my lecture notes will be posted on line. Our 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 the first 11 chapters of Shankar’s book by the end of the first semester.

Note that my introductory lectures will include, but not be limited to, a blend of Shankar’s Chapters 1 (math) and 4. (QM postulates). If you are rusty on vector spaces and linear algebra, you should brush up by doing more exercises in Chapter 1 of Shankar than are assigned. We can try to schedule an extra class each week devoted to math review.

Examinations: A midterm exam (to be given in class on 19 October 2016) will comprise 25% of your course grade and a final examination (16 Dec, 7:30am-9:30am) will comprise 50% of your course grade. Both exams will be closed book.

Homework: Problem sets containing 4 to 6 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. All late homework and currently due homework must be handed in to me by 5pm on the last day of class 7 December 2016. Note that this means that the last two homeworks will not be fully eligible for late hand in!

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.