Mechanics I, PHY3221

Course Information Spring 2014

Lecturer: C. B. Thorn, NPB 2069, 392-5701
Lectures: NPB 1220, MWF 2nd period (8:30-9:20am)
Office Hours: MW, (9:30-10:30) and by appointment.

Course webpage: http://www.phys.ufl.edu/~thorn/homepage/cmuginfo.html

Grader: TBA
email: 
Office hour:


Lectures: I will try to make my lectures self-contained. Our goal by the end of the semester is to cover all the material in the first 6 chapters of the textbook, and to close with a brief introduction to Hamilton’s principle and Lagrange’s equations.

Examinations: Two in-class exams (date tba) will each comprise 20% of your course grade and a final examination (30 April 2014, 5:30-7:30 pm) will comprise 40% of your course grade. Both exams will be closed book.

Homework: Problem sets problems will be assigned on approximately a weekly basis and, together with class participation, will comprise 20% of your course grade.

Homework Presentation: Each problem will be awarded up to 10 points. For full credit it must be handed in by 5pm on the due date. Late problems will be awarded up to 5 points. (1) For 1 point, start the solution of each problem on a new separate sheet of paper, headed by a descriptive title. (2) Prepare each solution as an essay explaining all important steps. Up to 9 points (up to 4 points if late) 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.