

# PHYS161

## Mechanics and Particle Dynamics

Summer 2016

Lecture M-F 2:30 - 3:50 PHY 1219  
Discussion TTh 1:30 - 2:20 PHY 1219

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*Office hours*

MW 1:30-2:30

M 4:00-5:00

*NOTE: Details in this syllabus should be taken as tentative. I will notify you when changes are made.*

### Course Description

The 161-260-270 course sequence gives an introduction to the concepts of classical and modern physics intended for students studying engineering or other similarly mathematical sciences. This first course in the sequence will begin with a brief introduction to measurement, units, and the scientific process before covering Newtonian mechanics, conservation laws, solids and fluids, and thermodynamics.

In this intensive, 1-term summer course, we will cover a large amount of material in a relatively short time, often completing an entire chapter or more in one lecture session; Hence, you will have both the advantage and misfortune of working on physics every day of the week.

**Prerequisite or corequisite:** MATH141 or MATH221 (or equivalent AP test credit)

### Recommended Textbook:

*Physics for Scientists and Engineers* , 3rd edition, R. Knight (Pearson, 2013).

## Assignments

I will assign homework roughly every other class, so you will have 1-2 due each week; most problems will come from the book and will be designed to develop your **ability to set up and solve** problems pertaining to the mathematical physical laws studied in each chapter; you will work out the exercises in these assignments the old-fashioned way, and they will be spot-checked for accuracy. A late assignment may incur a penalty, depending on the extent and circumstances. I will drop your lowest assignment score before computing your average.

You will have about 7-8 quizzes, which will take place in the first  $\sim 10$  minutes of most discussion sections. Quizzes will be closed book, but all formulae will be provided for you. The quiz problems will be largely straightforward and are intended to check your competency in topics from recent homework assignments. I will drop your lowest quiz score before computing your average.

You will also have 3 exams, consisting of a couple short-answer questions about basic concepts and several homework-like problems to solve. Exams will be pseudo-cumulative but will not explicitly test on material covered in previous exams.

Tentative dates are Mon, **Jun 13**; Fri, **Jun 24**; and Fri, **Jul 8**. Any changes will be announced well in advance.

## Discussion

You will have a 1-hr discussion before lecture TTh. Discussion sessions will consist of the short quizzes mentioned above followed by about 40 minutes of time to work with the TA on any problem or difficulty you have come across in the homework assignments.

## Grading Scheme

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Homework             | 25% |
| Quizzes              | 30% |
| Exams (3 @ 15% each) | 45% |

## ELMS Posts and Communicating with Me

I will clearly post all announcements, assignments, due dates, and other important information on the course ELMS page. I will also use ELMS to send course-wide emails when necessary. *It is **your responsibility** to find such information on ELMS.* Please check the page regularly for updates. I will be rather inflexible in dealing with problems that arise due to your failure to know things that have been said on ELMS.

That said, the TA or I will be happy to answer any other questions about course material, trouble with assignments, etc as they arise. Please feel free to send me email at any time for such reasons.

### **Attendance, Religious Observances, and University Closures**

Strictly speaking, I will not be taking attendance in this course, and your attendance during ordinary lectures is not required.

I will nonetheless be paying attention to who is here, who is participating, who comes to office hours, etc. Paying along in these ways will be quite beneficial to you, especially in the event of borderline performance in the course. For instance, if you wind up at the cutoff between two letter grades at the end of the semester, the effort you put forth throughout the course will be pivotal in my decision as to where to draw the line.

All that said, if you already know this material well, and you're only taking the course because your department is making you, I will not be offended by your regular absence in the classroom, and you will not be penalized for it, as long as you're present for exams, labs, and quizzes, all of your assignments are turned in promptly, and your performance is satisfactory.

*If you need to miss a deadline or an exam for a religious observance or other legitimate reason, please notify me in advance, and preferably ASAP.* If you miss a lab or exam due to illness or emergency, please get in touch ASAP after the fact. In all cases, a make-up exam will be arranged accordingly.

If the university is closed due to inclement weather or some emergency situation on or near an exam day or other important date, I will contact you on ELMS with further instructions.

### **Academic Integrity**

Learning to solve problems in physics can be a difficult and tedious process; often students find it beneficial to work with a partner on such problems. This sort of behavior is encouraged, although you should avoid larger groups to discourage stragglers.

That said, it is crucial that all students create and submit *their own* assignments. It will often be easy to tell your assignments apart, and so also easy to see if you have submitted someone else's work. Furthermore, I, too, will be Googling the problems I assign, so it will likely be clear to me if you've turned in work pulled straight from the internet. Such garbage behavior will not be tolerated and may result in an XF grade for the course and/or further action taken by the Student Honor Council.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Accommodations will be provided to enable students with disabilities to participate fully in the course. Please discuss any needs with me at the beginning of the semester, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Students who are registered with DSS and plan to take exams at their facilities should provide the pertinent authorization forms (electronic format is fine) *at least* one week prior to each exam date.