

**University of Maryland
Department of Physics**

Physics 171 and 171H

Fall 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

Title: Introductory Physics: Mechanics

Instructor: Dr. James F. Drake

Office: A. V. Williams Bldg. (3311)

e-mail: drake@umd.edu

Office Hours: by appointment or random access.

Rooms and Time: MWThF 9:00-10:00 – Rm 1204 Physics
Questions in class are strongly encouraged.
The Thursday class will be devoted
to working problems and further discussion.

Graders: ????
Isabelle Sanford (isanford@terpmail.umd.edu)

Text: D. Giancoli, *Physics for Scientists and Engineers*,
5th Edition, Vol. 1, Pearson

ELMS: All of the course materials, including the syllabus,
class notes, homework assignments and solutions, and exams and
solutions will be put on ELMS.

Course

Description: The course is intended to provide an
introduction to mechanics. Topics are
in Chapters 1-12 and 14 of the textbook but all of the
material in these chapters will not be covered. Topics to be
covered include kinematics, forces and Newton's laws,
momentum and energy, gravitation, rotational motion and
angular momentum, equilibrium and stability and oscillations.
The emphasis in the class will be on understanding important
physics concepts.

Homework: Assignments will be made on each Friday and will be due the following Friday. All homework problems, including due dates, will be posted on ELMS. Homework solutions should be uploaded as pdf files on ELMS and are due by the end of day on Friday. There will be approximately 10-11 homework assignments. Late homework will be penalized 20% per day and will not be accepted past the Sunday after it is due. The lowest two homework scores will be discarded so a missing assignment will not hurt your grade.

Exams: There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. Before each exam I will post a sample example from a prior time when I taught this course. Prior to each exam we will also hold a review session on the material to be covered in the exam (time to be determined). My students typically find these review sessions very valuable so make every effort to attend. Don't worry about memorizing formulae. I will put together a sheet with relevant formulae for each exam.

Grading: Your course grade will be computed on the basis of 500 points awarded as follows:

Homework	100
1st midterm	100
2nd midterm	100
Final Exam	200

To ensure that one bad day will not control your grade I will eliminate your lowest score above (either the homework, a midterm score or half of the final). I will not assign grades for individual exams. At the end of the semester, I total your score and assign grades based on your knowledge of the material and your performance compared with other students.

General
Comments:

Physics is a cumulative subject; the knowledge learned at each stage builds upon previous knowledge. Do not fall behind! If you find yourself in trouble, seek help. Attend the discussion sections and ask questions. Come to see me in my office (send an e-mail to make sure that I am available). Don't wait until just before the exam!