

**PHYSICS 105**  
**Fall 2008**

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**I- Course Information**

1. Textbook and supplies:

Textbook: "College Physics" by Serway & Vuille (8<sup>th</sup> Edition): the text that I will follow;  
OR  
"Principles of Physics" by Serway (4<sup>th</sup> Edition): for those who prefer a calculus-based text;  
OR  
Any algebra-based physics textbook you may have: they are usually called "college physics" and they all cover pretty much the same material (check them with me if you wish: I will tell you if they are adequate).

Suggested texts: Any study guide, solution manual or other text that would help you and/or go with the textbook you have. Also suggested, for those who need to review their math:  
"Mathematical Review Workbook" by Hudson

Supplies: Blue books (large size), scientific pocket calculator, lab material (see lab syllabus).

2. Program: The program consists of Mechanics, Thermodynamics, and Acoustics with special emphasis on the first two.

3. Problem Solving Workshops, Lab, Testing and Grading: Here is what to expect throughout the semester:

- a) Problem Solving Workshops: Problem solving sessions, called SI workshops, will be offered each week throughout the semester. During these workshops, you will be working with other students to answer questions and solve problems related to the material seen in class. Facilitators will be in attendance to help you. The workshops are tentatively scheduled at 10:30 on Wednesdays, 11:45 on Thursdays, and at 8 on Friday mornings; final times will be discussed in class. Regular attendance to at least one workshop each week will count for 5 points. For those who cannot attend the workshops, homework will be assigned and graded, and it will be accepted in lieu of workshop attendance.
- b) Laboratory: a lab experiment each week, with all the equipment provided, the work done in groups of 2 or 3, and a write-up to turn in after each experiment. The lab will count for 25 points.
- c) Tests: one special half-hour math test, counting for 5 points, four regular one-hour physics tests, counting for 15 points each, and, at the end of the semester, an optional comprehensive final, two-and-a-half hours long and counting for 30 points. The regular physics tests are cumulative but usually deal with material seen since the previous test. They are of the problem solving type, as is the final, usually with a choice (e.g. 3 problems out of 4), and partial credit is given for partially correct answers. The only material allowed during a test is your blue book and your calculator (which cannot be shared with other students). No cell phones or PDA are allowed during tests: if you have one it must remain in your backpack for the duration. On the first page of your blue book, you can write a summary of the theory and procedures that you will need for the test (but not a collection of problem solutions). Please note that no one is allowed to leave the room during a test: if you absolutely have to leave, you must turn in your blue book.

The total of the math test plus either your four physics tests or your best two physics tests and your final (counting for two), will determine your test grade which counts for 65 points. Note that for the final to count, you must pass it with a grade of at least 50%.

- d) Conceptual quizzes and discussions: periodic short quizzes and discussions on physical concepts: they will count for 5 points.
- e) Final Grade: The final grade will be based on the total of workshop/homework, lab, test, and quiz grades according to the following scale: A: 87 to 100, B: 73 to 86, C: 60 to 72, D: 50 to 59, F: below 50

#### 4. Learning outcomes:

- To understand the basic concepts and laws of mechanics and thermodynamics, and be able to use them to solve problems.
- To be able to apply basic research techniques in a laboratory and communicate findings in a professional manner.

## II- General Information

1- Attendance: Punctual attendance is mandatory. Multiple absences from lectures, unless cleared with me, will lead to your name being dropped from the class roster. Absence from a quiz or test will automatically mean a grade of 0 for that quiz or test. There are no make-up quizzes or tests: the final serves as a (double) make-up test. Similarly, absence from a lab means 0 for that lab and there are no make-up labs. However, the class has three lab sections: if you miss a lab or foresee that you will miss one, you can make arrangements to do it with one of the other sections.

2- Withdrawal: Should you wish to drop out of the class, please let me know about it first. The deadline to withdraw with no mark on your record is September 13<sup>th</sup> and with a W November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

3- Cheating: Cheating is dishonest and utterly stupid and it will be met with dismissal from the class for all parties involved.

4- Office hours: My office hours are at 10:45 a.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but I am available anytime I am on campus: please do not hesitate to call me or come and see me.

5- Math-Science Center: Tutors and faculty members are available on a drop-in basis in the Math-Science Center on the first floor of the Arroyo Seco (AS) building and many can help with physics; please check the detailed schedule. The "Mac lab" in CR 146 also has tutors that can help with physics at certain hours that will be posted.

6- Disability: Please let me know if you have a serious physical condition or disability, especially the type that may require emergency treatment such as epilepsy or diabetes. Personally I am hard of hearing, so please be patient if I have to ask you to repeat something that you have said. Note that all students with disabilities requiring accommodations are responsible for making arrangements in a timely manner through the Center for Students with Disabilities