Physics 2A, Fall 2004

Instructor: Douglas Singleton

Office: McLane J-Wing Room 24

Office Hours: MW 1600-1700 and TTh 1300-1430 or by appointment

Class Hours: MW 1400-1515

Room: McLane 162

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Text: College Physics, 6th Ed., Serway & Faughn

Grading:

3 Tests at 45% ; Quizzes 10% ; Labs 10% ; Problem Sets 10% ; Final Exam 25%

A = 90-100 ; B = 78 - 89.99 ; C = 65 - 77.99 ; D = 50 - 64.99 ; F < 50

The above grading scale will not be moved; any scaling will occur on the individual tests/exams. If there is a dispute in the grading of the tests, the final exam or for the final grade then you can present your case to me **one time** during my office hours, after class or at some other time that we can arrange. If after this you still feel that your test, final exam or overall grade deserves another look you can write down your reasons for me to reconsider my grading. This written request must be typed and must be a minimum of 1/2 page single space for test or final exam questions, and a minimum of 1 page single spaced for the overall grade. I expect that most of these rules will never be used, since the single face to face meeting is usually enough to figure out whether the grade should be changed or not.

Tests and Final Exam: There will be three tests which will be given after completing 4 chapters. A final exam will be given in McLane 162 on December 15 from 1:15 - 3:15. The tests will consist of some concept questions as well as some problems that must be worked out in detail. The final exam is comprehensive and will follow the format of the tests. For both tests and final exams you will need to bring scantron forms to class.

Make-Up Tests or Final Exam: If you know you are not going to be able to take a test or the final exam on the dates given, and if you have a valid, documented reason, and you let me know of this **at least one full week** before hand I'll give you a make-up at the earliest mutually convenient time for myself and all the students who missed the test. If you don't let me know at least one week before hand you'll have to take a zero on the test. If you miss **one test** for serious and compelling reasons, **and if you have documentation of this**, then I will take your final exam score and count it for this missed test score. If you miss more than one test for unforeseen reasons you'll have to take a zero on one of the tests, and you may want to withdraw from the course.

http://physics.csufresno.edu/dougs/phvs2a.html

9/8/2004
Labs: Labs are an integral part of this course. Your lab instructor will provide a detailed laboratory policy and a schedule. Sign up for a laboratory even if you have previously passed the lab. **Failing the lab means you automatically fail the course.**

Homework: In order to have a chance at understanding the material in a physics course you have to practice (i.e. do homework problems). I will assign 10-15 problems on roughly a weekly basis. Short sketches of the solutions will be posted/provided. You are encouraged to discuss the problems with other students, the TAs, or me. However, directly copying someone else's homework solutions is almost next to useless, and is probably not a good use of time for only 10%.

Quizzes: These will be short questions given on roughly a biweekly basis, during the last 10-15 minutes of class. These are simple questions which should help your grade a little bit (10% worth). They are intended to check that you are understanding at least the bare minimum. If you do poorly on ever early quiz this is an early warning sign that the material isn't sinking in. If this happens you should come to my office hours or go to the tutoring room to get help from the graduate TAs.

How to do well in this course: Physics is different than most subjects you may have taken. Unless you're exceptionally gifted it's very hard to learn physics by "cramming". Here are some tips and advice that should help you with the course.

Do the homework. Not only does it count in the grading of the course, but it should let you know how well your understanding the material. Also doing the homework should help you get ready for the test and final exam problems. Don't expect verbatim homework problems however. **Please do the homework problems on 8.5 X 11 inch paper, folded vertically, with your name, Physics 2A, the date, and the assignment number on the upper half of the outside.**

Read the material in the text before you come to lecture. It's much harder to understand a lecture if you don't know at least a rough outline of what the lecture is going to be about. Also if you find something obscure in the reading then you'll be able to ask about it when I get to it in lecture.

Attend the lectures. I'll try to supplement the reading in the book through a different presentations, by working examples, and doing demonstrations. By attending the lectures you'll also get an idea of what I consider to be important, and from a practical point of view this will be useful to you on tests. Finally, you are responsible for everything in lecture even if you don't attend. If I decide to move a test date (not very likely) and announce this during a lecture that you missed you are still responsible for this.

Plan to spend a **minimum** of 12 hours a week outside of class on this course. This course requires significantly more time in order to understand the material than the normal course.

As soon as something is unclear you should ask me to clarify it, either during class, or my office hours or by e-mail or phone. Despite its reputation physics is very "common sense" and if explained properly should be straightforward to understand. In addition to coming to my office hours you can also get help from the graduate TAs. They hold about 20 hours per week. The schedule for the TA hours is here --> TA Schedule and is posted outside the door of McLane 124. Also I will try to have a problem solving session before exams and the final.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities which will affect their participation in the course in any way should identify themselves to the instructor so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Please refer to the Policies and Regulations section of the University Catalog for the University policies governing students with disabilities.

Conduct, Cheating, and Plagiarism: Please refer to the Policies and Regulations section of the University Catalog for the University policies governing conduct, cheating, and plagiarism.
The course outline can be found here.

The Homework Assignment can be found here. When I receive the solutions on disk you can find electronic solutions to the homework here.

The HW and Test Grades can be found here by SSN.

The Final Grades can be found here by SSN.