

**Physics 4A**  
**General Physics for Physicists and Engineers**

Instructor: Dr. A. Abbott

Office Hours: Tues 9-11, Fri 1-2 in Room PHY 71

Text: **Physics for Scientists and Engineers**, 5th Edition, by Serway and Beichner

**READ THE TEXT! STUDY THE TEXT!**

Course Material: Chapters 1-14 covered at the rate of about one chapter per week.

Lectures: MWF 9 am - 10 am in Room PHY 70. Students who are quiet, pay attention, and stay focused during lectures are generally much more successful in this class! Most students find this course quite difficult and demanding. You will spend three hours per week in lecture; why not make this time useful, informative and productive ?

Homework:

- (1) Problem sets will generally be assigned every Friday and collected the following Friday; **selected** problems will be graded. Each problem set will consist of about 10 to 12 problems from the text.
- (2) Any multi-page problem set which is handed in unstapled will receive a **ZERO**.
- (3) Since this course is oriented toward developing your problem-solving skills, you must put a solid effort into the homework each and every week!

Laboratories: Thursdays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm in room PHY 70.

Typical schedule:

9:00am - 10:00am	Homework discussion, film
10:00am - 10:15am	<b>Weekly quiz</b>
10:15am - 10:30am	Break
10:30am - 1:00pm	Lab exercise

When possible, procedures will be handed out weekly prior to each lab. **It is critical that you read and study the procedure prior to coming to lab to perform the exercise.** Note that you have only about two hours to collect your data and complete each exercise. No sympathy or special dispensation will be extended to students who become

"confused" or "stuck" during an exercise because they have failed to properly prepare prior to coming into lab. A written laboratory report will be required following each lab. Typically, you will have one week following each experiment to write and hand in your report.

Late Assignments:

- (1) Homework and lab reports are due and will be collected **AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS** on the due date.
- (2) Absolutely no late homework or lab reports will be accepted.
- (3) If because of illness or some other unavoidable circumstance you cannot come to class on the day on which a homework assignment or lab report is due, you may mail your work to me at the following address:

Dr. Abbott  
Department of Physics  
Reedley College  
995 N. Reed Ave.  
Reedley, CA. 93654

The envelope must show a post mark on or before the due date. Having to mail your work to me should, however, be rare and unusual. The freedom to mail assigned work to me is a **privelege** which may be revoked at any time for any individual or even the entire class if it is abused.

Exams: Two midterms and a comprehensive final. The approximate exam schedule is as follows:

Midterm 1	Chap 1-6	Week 7 of semester.
Midterm 2	Chap 7-12	Week 14 of semester.
Final Exam	Chap 1-14	Week 18 (Finals week) <b>Friday, May 19 2000</b> <b>8:00 am - 10:00 am</b>

Exact dates for exams will be given at least one week prior to each test. The key to success on the exams is preparation: practice, practice, practice! Specifically, you should make sure, before you walk into the test, that you can do **each and every homework problem assigned, backwards and forwards** in the chapters to be covered on that test. The exams will be given during the lab periods of the weeks listed to allow you extra time. No make-up exams will be given unless arrangements are made **in advance**.

**Quizzes:** In order to help students maintain consistent effort throughout the course, a weekly quiz will be given prior to every lab session. Questions will be taken from the **first half** of the HW assignment pending for that week, **and from current or previous labs.**

**Grading:** The total points earned by a student over the entire semester determines his or her final grade.

Homework	340 points	(or 20%)
Lab work	170 points	(or 10%)
Midterm 1	255 points	(or 15%)
Midterm 2	255 points	(or 15%)
Weekly Quizzes	170 points	(or 10%)
Final Exam	510 points	(or 30%)
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<b>Total Possible:</b>	<b>1700 points</b>	<b>(or 100%)</b>

With this system, all points (whether given on a homework, lab, or exam) have identical weight. Thus, a student wanting to know his or her grade at any time mid-semester simply has to find the total points he/she has accumulated, divide by the total points possible up to that time in the semester and then find his/her current percentage on the grading scale below.

**Grading Scale:**

1513 - 1700 points	(or 89 - 100%)	A
1309 - 1512 points	(or 77 - 88%)	B
1105 - 1308 points	(or 65 - 76%)	C
901 - 1104 points	(or 53 - 64%)	D
0 - 900 points	(or 0 - 52%)	F

**Attendance:** In accordance with college policy, attendance is mandatory. A student will be dropped after six absences unless special arrangements are made. Missed labs count toward your total of six allowed absences.

**Drop Date:** The last day to drop a semester-length course is at the end of the **NINTH WEEK** of the semester, which is **Friday, March 10 2000**. Letter grades must be assigned to each student who is enrolled after this date.