

**PHYSICS 10 SYLLABUS**

Fall 2009

**MWF 1:00 - 1:50 and Lab class Thurs. 12:00 -1:50**

Instructor: Lauren J. Novatne

Office Hours \*\* Tu 1 - 2 PM, W & Th 2-3 PM \*\*

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Textbook: "Conceptual Physics Fundamentals", Hewitt, 1st edition, Pearson Addison Wesley Publishers. **Internet access to supplemental support materials: REQUIRED!!! (\$30)**

Course Objective: This course covers important concepts with a minimum of math, while fulfilling the science with a lab general education requirement for the CSU and UC systems. The topics are: Motion, Gravity, Energy, Light and Optics, Electricity and Magnetism and (possibly) Modern Physics.

Calendar: **Holidays:** Monday September 6th, Thursday November 11<sup>th</sup>, Thursday and Friday November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

**LAST DAY TO DROP THIS CLASS: FRIDAY October 15th. AFTER THAT DATE, I MUST GIVE YOU A GRADE!!**

**Final Exam: Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM**

Homework: Doing your homework assists you in two ways: 1) it helps you learn the material by practicing problem solving skills, and 2) it lifts your grade. Your homework is **15%** of your semester grade. This means that if you get 100% for the other parts of your grade, and don't do any homework, you will get a 'C', not an 'A' for the course. It also means that if you do your homework, and your grade is a 75%, you will get an 'A' in the course, not a 'C'.

Exams: There will be three midterm exams and one final exam. The exams have conceptual questions that are multiple choice in format, and **there are also some detailed physics problems that will need to be solved in addition to some essay questions.** The exams contribute 60% of your semester grade, so they are very important to prepare for.

**You will need to purchase scantron forms for the exams. If you do not have a scantron form on exam day, you will receive a grade of "F" for that exam.**

**In addition, you will need to purchase internet support material through the publisher's web site - this is REQUIRED.**

Laboratory: This class has a lab that is mandatory. There will be lab reports due at the end of each session. The reports will constitute 10% of your semester grade.

Participation: There are in-class activities that are graded on your participation. These activities are varied in type, and include computer simulations, problem solving sessions, and other activities that are designed to assist you in learning physics as well as assisting me in determining how well you are learning the material. Participation accounts for 15% of your grade, so it is important that you are in class **AND** participate.

Grading Policy:	90 - 100 %	A	Homework	15%
	80 - 89 %	B	Exams	60%
	65 - 79 %	C	Lab Reports	10%
	55 - 64%	D	Participation	15%
	0 - 54%	F		

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

## Here are some helpful hints for getting the grade you want in this physics class:

Accept that physics is a difficult topic to learn (although I happen to love it), and that you will never take a harder class ever. This being understood, if you follow my advice, you will have a good time and have a sense of accomplishment like only physics can give you.

BE HERE, be on time, and work at your physics **every day**. Physics is tough (I think I said that already, but since it's true, it bears repeating), and you need to work at it every day. Just as an athlete doesn't perform well in a competition after trying a sport once, so a physics student doesn't perform well on exams by doing a single problem.

Even if you can't get too far on your homework, try every problem. Work for ten -fifteen minutes on a problem, **THEN STOP**. Go to the next problem, and work for the same amount of time until you get to the end of the assignment. Do this **as soon as the assignment is given**. If you wait until the night before the assignment is due, you will be overwhelmed and unable to turn in good work, and your time will be wasted. If you begin the assignment as soon as it is given, in the manner described above, then you will know where you need help. You **will** need help. Some of us need less help than others, but everyone needs help while learning physics. Either come to see me, or go to the tutorial center to get help. The students who get an A from me are the ones who visit me in my office, and visit often. I will meet with you, even if you can't make it to my office at my appointed time. I am here to help you learn physics, and I will meet with you and help you.

Finally, **be sure to ask me lots and lots of questions**, no matter how stupid your question seems to you. I like stupid questions; I ask lots of the, you'll see.