

## PHYSICS 10 SYLLABUS

Schedule # 52591

Fall 2012

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

Instructor: Lauren J. Novatne

Phone Number: 638 - 3641 ext. 3434

Office hours: Tuesday 9 AM- 12 noon

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Textbook: “**Conceptual Physics Fundamentals**”, Hewitt, 1st edition, Pearson Addison Wesley Publishers.

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.

**Holidays:** Monday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Monday November 12<sup>th</sup>,  
Thursday and Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>

**LAST DAY TO DROP THIS CLASS: FRIDAY October 14th. AFTER THAT DATE, I MUST GIVE YOU A GRADE!!**

**Final Exam: Wednesday December 12<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 **10%** 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.**

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 15% 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.

There are activities and quizzes given in class, some are announced, and others are not. If you do not communicate with me \*PRIOR TO THE END OF THE CLASS MEETING TIME\* that you are not going to be present in class, then you will receive a score of ZERO for that activity or quiz, and you will not be able to make up the points. You may inform me in person, by phone (leave a message on my voice mail if I don't answer the phone), or by email. Sending a message through a classmate or friend disqualifies you from the exemption. This is YOUR grade, so YOU must communicate with me regarding your ability to be present. I do NOT want to know why you will miss class - just that you will not be present. You will only be able to use three "passes" for the entire semester. After you use up your three passes, you will receive zero points for your absence.

Attendance: You are required to be here, and be on time for every class. Being 5 minutes past the hour is considered tardy. If you complete the semester with 95% perfect attendance, I will add 2% to your semester grade. Perfect attendance means that you are not late, or you have exercised your "pass" for up to three class sessions for the entire semester.

Here is how I use the attendance to determine whether or not you get the "extra credit" of 2% on your semester grade:

If the number of days that we have class (when I am absent, that day is not counted in the total number of days that we meet) is 60, and you have been tardy 5 times, absent 2 days in addition to being tardy then here's the formula I use to determine if you have been present 95% of the time:

[Total days of class meeting - # half of your tardy days - # of days you were absent] divided by [total days of class meeting] = your % attendance

$(60 - 2.5 - 2) / (60) = (55.5) / (60) = 0.925$ , which is 92.5%. You would NOT get the 2% "extra credit" attendance bonus added to your semester grade. You will need to be present for 57 days of the 60 to get the "extra credit". How you "spend" your 3 days (as 6 tardies, 3 absences or a combination of tardies and absences), for this example, is up to you. Remember, this is 3 days that have NOT been excused. Excused days do not count against your "extra credit" bank.

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

## 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.

The power point lectures are posted on the Black board page, as is the semester overview. I will assume that you have read the power points before I present them to you in class. Read them ahead of the class, so that you have your questions ready for me. If you don't ask any questions during the power point presentation in class, I will assume that you understand the material well enough that it can (and will) appear on the exam. When you ask me questions, I will take as much time as you need to understand the answer. I will move at the pace that you set. If you don't ask questions, we will move on.

Finally, **be sure to ask me lots and lots of PHYSICS questions**, no matter how stupid your question seems to you. I like "stupid" physics questions; they usually lead to the best conversations in class. I would much rather answer "stupid" physics questions than lecture, and I know that you learn more that way.

Do NOT ask me:

When are my office hours?

When is our final exam?

What are we doing in class?

...because you can answer those questions yourself by referring to this syllabus or the semester overview on our Blackboard page!

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.