Physics 4A SYLLABUS

- **Schedule #s 59997 *OR* 59989 Spring 2017**
- **Lecture classes: TW 8:00 - 9:50 AM**
- **Lab classes: Th 8:00 – 10:50 AM *OR* Thurs 11 – 1:50**

Contact Information:

- Instructor Name: Lauren J. Novatne
- Phone Number: 638 – 3641 ext. 3434
- Email: lauren.novatne@reedleycollege.edu

Office hours:

- Monday 8:00- 9:00 AM, Thursday 11 to 11:50 AM and 1- 2 PM

Required Course Materials:

- Textbook: **"Physics for Scientists and Engineers with Modern Physics"**, Giancoli, 4th edition, Pearson/Prentice Hall Publishers

Course Objective:

This course covers the topics of classical mechanics, properties of matter, gravitation, fluid mechanics, oscillatory motion and mechanical waves.

Students will gain skills in understand the complementary roles of experimental investigation and theoretical explanation in science, apply dimensional analysis to determine the units for an unknown quantity or to check the validity of equations, correctly report the units of an observable when it is measured or calculated and distinguish between important physical observables, such as velocity, acceleration and force.

Calendar:

- **Final Exam: Thursday May18th at 8 AM in PHY 70 – the room where the class is held**
- Holidays: Monday January 16th, Friday February 17th and Monday February 20th, April 10th - 14th
- May 15th - 19th Final Exams

- **LAST DAY TO DROP THIS CLASS: FRIDAY March 10th. AFTER THAT DATE, I MUST GIVE YOU A GRADE!!**

Exams:

There will be two midterm exams and one final exam. The exams have conceptual questions that are multiple choice in format. There are also some detailed physics problems that will need to be solved. The exams contribute ***65%*** of your semester grade, so they are very important to prepare for. Make up exams are discouraged. If you know that you will not be present in class for a scheduled exam, you must contact me PRIOR to the end of the class session within which the exam is given. Make up exams will be offered only for the occasion of your illness, a jury summons or an emergency (such as an auto accident). Otherwise, you will not be offered a make up exam.

There are occasionally some 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 quiz, and you will not be able to make up the activity or quiz. 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.

Laboratory:

This class has a lab that is mandatory. There are lab reports that will be mostly provided for you. You will turn them in when they are 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. If you don't participate, you don't get the points just for being in class.

In class problem solving:

There will be many in class problem solving sessions instead of homework assignments. The problems will be posted before the in class problem solving session, to allow you time to prepare. Copying the instructor solution's manual will not get you the points. You will be graded on what is observed while you are in class. The problem solving sessions will be worth 5% of your grade.

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:

% Grade for the Class	Letter Grade For the Class		Category of classwork	% of Class Grade
90 – 100 %	A		Exams	70%
80- 89 %	B		In class problem solving sessions	5%
65 – 79 %	C		Lab Reports	15%
55 – 64 %	D		Participation	15%
0 – 54 %	F			

Accessibility Accommodation

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.