

Physics 214 - Syllabus - Spring 2017

Dr. Vance Eschenburg
Lecture Location: 134 Brevard Hall
Lecture Time: Tu/Th; 8:00-9:15 a.m.
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Office: 121A Lewis Hall
Office Hours: 9:30-10:30am
and 4-5pm Tu/Th
Tutorials: 2:30-4pm Fridays

Recommended Text: Physics, 7th. Ed., Giancoli, Ch 16-25, 27, 30.

Grades

Your semester grade for this class is based on three tests, a final, and homework. Currently, all tests and the final will take place in 134 Brevard. If this

3 Tests: Feb 23 (15%), Mar 30 (20%), and Apr 27 (25%)
The dates of these tests were set in September, 2016.

Final: (30%)

Wednesday, May 9, 8-11am

This final is not at noon. All students must take their final at the scheduled time.

Homework: (10%)

This will be a combination of written and online assignments.

The class is on the Plus/Minus Grading Scale (Lab grading scale will be discussed in lab):

A's:	(88.00% - 91.9999% A-)	(92.00% - 100.00% A)	
B's:	(76.00% - 79.9999% B-)	(80.00% - 83.9999% B)	(84.00% - 87.9999% B+)
C's:	(64.00% - 67.9999% C-)	(68.00% - 71.9999% C)	(72.00% - 75.9999% C+)
Other:	(< 50.00% F)	(50.00%-63.9999% - D)	

There will be no rounding.

Top Hat Monocle

TopHat is a class enhancement app that goes on your phone, laptop, desktop, ipad, etc. We'll be using it primarily in class but it may be used on occasion in the labs where Dr. Eschenburg is the IOR. Class code: 374296

Labs... Go to Lab!

Goto <http://www.phy.olemiss.edu/lab/genlab/> and download the appropriate materials, schedules, etc. for lab. Do not buy a lab manual from the bookstore. Everything is free online.

*Student: 'Dr. Eschenburg! *insert other department name here* cancelled their labs this week. I can miss lab that week, right?'* Me: 'No. Go to lab.'

If labs are ever cancelled, and you are in an Eschenburg lab, you will receive an email directly from me. When in doubt, go to lab. If you don't think the rules apply to you, the rules are applied to

you first. Three unexcused absences will result in a final grade of F.

Frequently Asked Questions: FAQ

1. *What is the Instructor of Record (IOR)?* The IOR is your professor and listed on your schedule. They have the final word with regards to your grade and admittance into the class/lab. They determine if absences are excused/unexcused. Though they are not involved in the day to day activities of the lab, they do run the lab behind the scenes.
2. *What is the attendance policy of the classes?* According to University policy, you are expected to scan your ID or sign in (if your ID is not available) at the beginning of every lecture you attend for the first two weeks. Afterwards, you will enter your attendance via the Top Hat Monocle app on your phone. Though your attendance will have no direct contribution to your grade, I will use it when considering boundary grades.
3. *Bonus? Did I hear the word bonus?* Not quite. This is the sausage making part of the class and I don't discuss it in detail. I understand how upsetting C-'s are and work to avoid them. I do everything I can, within reason, to help your grade and never to hurt it. If I curve, I always curve up and never down.
4. *The class is on the 'Plus/Minus' system and the lab is on the 'ABC' system.* Yes.
5. *When is the drop date?* March 3. If you do drop, you must drop both the class and the lab.
6. *When do the midterm grades come out?* March 6 - Your midterm grade will be your test one grade. That's 15% of your total grade. Don't freak out if you don't get the grade you want. The first test of 213 usually 'wakens everyone to reality.' You'll do better. If the administration didn't require me to do this, I wouldn't submit a midterm grade.
7. *Can I take the test with the other section?* No. My other section is not the same course.
8. *One of my other professors scheduled a test today that conflicts with one of your physics labs/test. What do I do?* You inform the other professor that you need to take their test at another time. It against university policy to have another class arrange activities that overlap officially scheduled physics labs/tests. If the other professor doesn't understand, please let me know. Our department loves to deal with these kinds of problems.
9. *What is this 'book' that Dr. Eschenburg keeps talking about?* 'The Book' is my book of grade corrections and notes that always stays in my office. It's more official and important than Blackboard. Grade changes do not always show up on Blackboard. But if it's 'in the book,' it's official.
10. *What grades can I drop?* There are no dropped grades in my class or in any of my labs.
11. *What if I miss the Final?* Since neither of the finals start at noon, everyone must take their final at their scheduled time. If it's a non-excused absence, a grade of 0 will be entered. If it's an excused absence, the grade of 'incomplete' will be assigned and a makeup final will be given no earlier than June 15, 2017. I recommend not missing the final.
12. *When will the semester grades be posted?* May 15, 2017, 8pm

Excused/Unexcused Absence Examples

Excused absences (must bring documentation, funeral announcement, Departmental letter, etc):

- Death of immediate family member
- Official Ole Miss event (football, marching band, cheerleading, etc.)
- Standardized test (GRE, OAT, PCAT, MCAT, etc)
- Graduate/Med/Pharmacy School interview
- Severe Illness or Injury (Coma, mono, sinus infection, flu, kidney stone, burst appendix, etc)
- Held hostage on bus

Unexcused absences:

- Death of any member of boyfriend's/girlfriend's family or your own extended family
- Death of a pet.
- Greek social or philanthropic event (I'll be happy to sign a letter to your group stating you have academic obligations and are excused from their event.)
- Job interview
- Mardi Gras
- Slight cold or 'I don't feel well.'
- Organic Chemistry cancelled their labs.
- Other class schedules test during Physics lab/class/test/final.
- The bus was running late. (Or missed the bus.)

Homework/Test advice (How to make sure your grader is in a good mood.)

1. Written homework will be accepted at two locations: The lecture table next to the stapler during class. The drop box in Lewis 121. Don't include the homework sheet given to you. Staple it together in the upper left hand corner.
2. Good penmanship. Don't write in 5 point font. Don't answer the problems in the margins on the homework set given to you. Its ok to use several sheets. It can be on unmarked, lined, or graph paper. Please use multiple colors if you think it gets the point across. I can't begin to tell you how important this is.
3. Write your name and SID on every sheet in the upper right corner of the front sheet and in the middle of the top of the other sheets. Homework sets have been known to 'disperse' during grading. Unidentified homeworks will be tacked to my 'Board of Shame' outside of my office.

4. The name that you write on your homework/test/final/scantron must be the one listed on MyOleMiss. Do not use nicknames.
5. Assume that your grader is not psychic and an idiot. Write in orderly columns. Explain your steps. Don't write all of the problems on one page. 'And then a miracle occurred.' is never a good thing to write down before you give your answer.
6. Avoid writing things in the upper left hand corner of the front page or upper right hand corner of the back page. We don't like having to pry apart your homework to see if the answer is hidden in the corner.
7. Box your answers. Clearly label your answers.
8. Photograph/scan your homework before you turn them in. We receive an insane amount of homework every week. Stuff gets misplaced. Or lost. Or stolen. Homework sets turned in the week of the test will not be returned in time. A photo of the homework, along with evidence that it was created before the deadline, makes my life so much easier when fixing grades.
9. The use of a colored cover sheet really makes it easier for you to find your homework when its in a pile of 300 homework sets.

Teaching Philosophy and Class Expectations

After teaching over 2000 students, I've come to this:

1. More often than not, your high school education was horrible. Your high school physics teacher, if you had one at all, was horrible too. And your college algebra/trig teacher was pretty bad. I accept this. Lets wipe the slate clean. We'll fix it.
2. Effectively communicating the material is as important as knowing the content.
3. I encourage my students to correct my mistakes in class. Sometimes, they are intentional. Other times, they are not. Be prepared to not only point out the mistake but provide a correction.
4. I will convince you that physics is necessary for everyone, including nonphysics majors. It teaches you problem solving skills and other techniques used in other classes.
5. This class places a higher value in doing things 'generally' more than getting a specific number. We will be using the 'alphabet soup' method rather than the 'plug and chug' method.
6. If you don't understand anything in class, please let me know right away. If you are confused about something, I'm sure there are 100 students who are just as confused as you.
7. Good students can answer any question given to them. Better students, in addition to answering any question given to them, can make their own questions and then answer those.
8. I know you follow the UM Creed and understand its meaning of 'academic honesty.' But steps have been taken by my graders, my TA's, my lab physicists, and me to make sure that this is true. Over the semester, we will discuss study habits and writing techniques that, if followed, will ensure that the grade listed on your transcript for Physics 213 was earned.
9. There is so much more. These lessons will come later.