

Physics 107 – Syllabus

Fall Semester 2006

General Information

Professor: Dr. Josh Gladden

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Office: Observatory #1 and NCPA 1062

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 10:00 – 11:30 (in Observatory Rm. 1)

Website: www.phy.olemiss.edu/~jgladden/phys107/ (check regularly!)

Lecture: M W 4:00 – 4:50 PM in Lewis 101

Lab: Lewis 212 (John Brozovich: jtbrozov@olemiss.edu)

Text: P. Hewitt, *Conceptual Physics 10th ed.*, Addison Wesley 2006

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the fundamental concepts in physics. We cover roughly the first half of the textbook, concentrating on the themes: description of motion (kinematics), energy, gravity, the composition of matter (solids, liquids, and gases), heat and temperature, and vibrations and waves.

Significant goals of this course are for students to improve their analytical reasoning and problem solving skills as well as gain an appreciation for the rules which govern the world around them. Students will be primarily evaluated on their grasp of concepts and the ability to apply those concepts. A further goal of the course is to make you a “scientifically literate” citizen. You are a voting member of our society and should have some reasonable understanding of the issues surrounding scientific policy decisions.

Evaluation

Weight

Test 1 25%

Test 2 25%

Test 3 ---

Final 25%

Lab..... 25%

Homework: Before each lecture, you should read the chapter and come to class with questions. Each week I will assign a number of questions in the textbook which I will collect. The assignments will not be graded, but will count toward extra credit. Students who turn a “good faith effort” on assignments will receive up to 5 extra points on their final test average. Physics does not come easily to most people, so practice is VERY important preparation for tests. I encourage you to work on homework in groups. (See note on **Group Work**.)

Letter Grades

A: 90 – 100%

B: 80 – 89%

C: 70 – 79%

D: 60 – 69%

F: < 60%

Tests: There will be three 1-hour tests during the course. The two highest grades of your tests will each count toward 25% of your grade and the lowest test grade will be dropped. Tests are NOT cumulative. The format of the tests will generally be a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. There will be a cumulative final exam given at the end of the semester which will count as 25% of your final grade.

Course Policies

Absences: There is no attendance policy for the course, but keep in mind that you will be responsible for knowing what is said in class, and absences from tests count as zeros, unless they are justified. There will normally be no make-ups for missed tests.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is essential to all the values upon which the university is founded. Students must therefore embody academic honesty in all aspects of their work. *A student with a documented case of plagiarism or academic cheating in a course will receive the grade of F for the course and may face further disciplinary action by the University.* You need to take this seriously – I do!

Group Work: Physics is very rarely done alone. I encourage you to form study groups in preparation for homework assignments and tests. HOWEVER, the homework assignments should be the work of the individual student. If you can not do the homework, you will not do well on the tests!

Lab: This course has a laboratory (or practical) component worth 25% of your final grade. Please see the Lab Syllabus for details about the lab.

Note: If a change in the class policies became necessary during the semester, it would be discussed in class before being implemented. After this discussion, the change would be posted on the website.
