Physics 214 – Syllabus
Spring 2006

General Information

Instructor: Dr. Josh Gladden
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Office: NCPA 1062
Office Hours: Wed. 9:15 – 11:15 in the Observatory or by appt. at NCPA
Phone: 915-7428
Website: www.phy.olemiss.edu/~jgladden/phys214/ (check regularly!)
Lecture: T,Th 9:30-10:45 AM in 101 Lewis
Text: D. Giancoli, *Physics* 6th ed., Prentice Hall 2004 (required)

Course Description

This is the second course of a two-course sequence on general physics, mainly for pre-med majors. (The companion course, offered in the Fall, is PHYS 213.) Students who enroll must also take, or have previously passed, the PHYS 224 lab course.

We cover roughly the second half of the textbook. The main themes are: Thermal behavior, electricity and magnetism, circuits, optics (light), and modern (or 20th century) topics such as relativity, quantum mechanics, and atomic and nuclear physics.

Significant goals of this course are for students to improve their analytical reasoning and problem solving skills. Part of this consists in "applying equations" and "getting the right result", but students will be evaluated on a broader set of skills, including the way they analyze a problem and place it in context, and the way they write about it and about general concepts.

Evaluation

Weights

Homework .. 15%
Test 1 ..... 15%
Test 2 ..... 15%
Test 3 ..... 15%
Physlet..... 10%
Final Exam .. 30%

Homework: Homework will be assigned for each chapter we cover; announcements will be made in class and posted on this website. Homework turned in after 5:00 pm on the day it is due may not be accepted, but students may be given an extension on an assignment if there is a valid reason. Homework must be easy to read; pages must be stapled together, and have smooth (not torn) edges. The grade will reflect content, presentation, and English. The lowest grade will be dropped.
(See note under **Group Work** below.)

Tests: There will be three midterm tests and a final exam, consisting mostly, but not exclusively, of problems to be worked out. Students will be allowed to use a calculator, but no books or notes during the tests. The final will be comprehensive.

Letter Grades

The letter grades assigned to percentages will be decided as the course progresses. After each test, a histogram of the results along with grade break points will be available.	**Physlet:** Students who complete a session with the physics computer tutoring system, as explained in the class announcements page, will get full credit (100%) for 10% of the total grade of the course. **Final Exam:** A cumulative final exam will be given on Thursday May 11 from 8–11 AM in Lewis 101. Details on the topics stressed and exam policies will be given later in the semester.
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 disciplinary action by the University.* **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! **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 this website.