

PHYS1500, GENERAL PHYSICS I

Instructor: F. Robicheaux, 105 Allison Laboratory, 844-4366, robicfj@auburn.edu

Office hours: MTh 2-4 and any time I'm not occupied with other duties.

Text: *College Physics*; 7th edition volume 1, by Serway and Faughn. We will cover sections in Chs. 1-14.

Prerequisites: I expect you to know and use basic arithmetic, algebra, and trigonometry. Previous exposure to physics/science may be useful but is not necessary.

Classes: Parker Hall 307, TTh 8:00-9:15. Classes are for reinforcing and clarifying the fundamental ideas of the course with examples and demonstrations. They are not for *introducing* ideas.

Attendance: *Mandatory for the 1st day of class. You will be allowed 3 absences for the semester. If you have 4 absences, then your final grade will be decreased by 15 points. If you have 5 absences, then your final grade will be decreased by 30 points. If you have 4 absences and ALL of them are excused, then your final grade will not be decreased. If you have 4 absences and 3 are excused, then your final grade will be decreased by 15 points. Etc.*

Required Equipment: One iClicker: an electronic transmitter used for class feedback during lecture. The iClicker can be bought new or used from the book store or you can share with another student *as long as they are not in this class*. This will be part of your final grade and will start from the first class day. Your 3 lowest iClicker scores will be dropped. There are no make-ups. Your clicker will be registered in class and it must be registered by the 2nd day of class. Attendance is taken using the iClicker; if you have forgotten your iClicker, you need to notify me at the beginning or end of class.

Reading: Reading is a crucial part of this course. The material is too difficult to learn by just listening to lecture. You should allocate roughly 45 minutes for each assignment to read the night before each class. The reading assignments are posted in the Blackboard calendar.

Blackboard: Most of the class information will be posted through Blackboard: homeworks, announcements, grade info, material, schedule, etc. *You are responsible for this information.*

Homework: You will be given problems that you need to complete successfully before attending recitation. I strongly suggest you work these problems on your own, without help from friends or solutions manuals. A late homework will count as 0 points. *You will turn in your worked homework problems at the beginning of recitation.* There are examples of acceptable homework solutions posted in Blackboard. A homework grade will count for up to 5 points and will be added to that week's recitation grade. *Warning:* the recitation quizzes are difficult and you will need these 5 points.

Recitation: All recitations are on Tuesday. The recitation will consist of 90 minutes of problem solving. The last 30 minutes will be a quiz. The quiz will mostly be on material covered in the previous week but *can have problems from early chapters*. You will be allowed to use your handwritten notes during the quiz. Your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped. Recitations start on August 28.

Lab Work: All labs are on Thursday, except the 1st lab which is on August 21. Most of the lab experiments are in the "Physics One" laboratory textbook by Simon. You must have this to enter lab. You should also bring your textbook to lab. The particular lab for each week will be announced. You *will be* expected to know what the lab is about before your lab session. Your lowest lab grade will be dropped. If you miss a lab for a valid reason (see Tiger Cub), you need to see your lab instructor about scheduling a make-up. Number of make-up labs = number of valid absences - 1

Midterm tests: There will be no midterm tests in class.

Comprehensive Final Exam: Parker Hall 307 on Tues. December 11 2:00 pm-4:30 pm.

Exam protocol: You supply the writing device and calculator. All other material, including a formula sheet, will be provided.

Test philosophy: The goals of the PHYS1500 sequence are to teach you some physics and an appreciation of the *methods* utilized in a highly successful area of human endeavor. The tests are purposely constructed in a way that you cannot make an A or B by memorization of the steps needed to solve problems. An "A" grade is meant to indicate a high level of understanding and a "B" grade a good level of understanding.

Grading: The final will count for 30% of your grade. The lab is worth 10%. The recitation quizzes will be worth 60%. The iClicker score is a bonus 5%.

Grade Scale: 86-A, 76-B, 66-C, 56-D. Anything less than 56.0 is F.

Missed Recitation: A missed recitation without a valid excuse will count as 0 points. If you miss a recitation for a valid reason (see Tiger Cub), you must contact me *within 2 days* and submit your excuse *within 1 week* to have it marked as a valid absence. It must be possible for me to check it (legible signatures, phone numbers, etc). Your recitation grade will only be adjusted if you have 2 or more valid absences. Number of adjusted recitation quizzes = number of valid absences - 1. An adjusted recitation score = grade on final/4

Student Discipline: You should be familiar with the Oath of Honor (Tiger Cub pg 15), the Policy on Classroom Behavior (Tiger Cub pg 66) and the Code of Student Discipline (Tiger Cub pg 68). I will be strictly following these policies because the class is large (approx 200).

Trouble with the Class:

- (1) If you are having trouble with this class, you should see me before the final. Unless there was a mistake in grading, there is nothing you can "do" for your grade after the final.
- (2) You can come to me if you are having trouble dealing with your lab instructor and I can act as mediator or determine the appropriate action.
- (3) If you are having trouble with *my* style in class, tests, etc, come see me. Chain of command: me---my dept. head (J. Perez)---my dean (S. Schneller)/your dean---Pres. Gogue