PHYSICS 2001 - 3 General Physics Spring 2007

Classroom: 130 Nicholson   TuTh 9:10 – 10:30 am
Professor Richard L. Kurtz rlkurtz@lsu.edu
Office: Room 217C Nicholson Hall  phone: 578-4029
Office Hours: TuTh, 10:30-11:30 am, W 10:00-11:00 am or by appointment
WebSite: http://www.surfaces.lsu.edu/2001/
Text: Physics , Cutnell & Johnson, 6th Edition
Recommended Text: Student Solution Manual , Comella, Cutnell, and Johnson, 6th Edition

CLASS:
• This course covers chapters 1-12, 16-17 of the text, excluding the material on thermodynamics (Ch. 13-15). You are responsible for both the material in the text and the material covered in the lectures. I am available in my office to consult on homework problems, test strategy and any issue related to your performance in this course.
• Reading Assignments: Chapters of the text indicated in the lecture schedule are assigned as required reading for each class. You are required to read and know this material before coming to class. Periodically, quizzes may be given in class to be sure you have read the material and understand the concepts that have been covered. They will be multiple-choice questions.

• YOU MUST ATTEND THE LECTURES! The concepts and approaches to problem solving will be developed through the readings, lectures, demonstrations and class discussion. I generally do sample problems similar to those in the homework to illustrate concepts; typically one of these worked problems will appear on each test. If you need to leave early, let me know ahead of time. To be honest, I find it to be rude when students walk out on me during class, occasionally I will respond by giving a quiz.

HOMEWORK:
• Homework is the most important part of the course!
• Homework is your physics “practice.” You will do well in the course if you do all the homework on your own since you will then be able to answer the questions and problems on the 3 tests and the final exam.
• Most of the test problems will be similar to the homework problems.
• We will use WebAssign, a web based computerized homework system.
• Do the homework daily. Often the number of problems (10-12) is too large to do in one sitting. It is best if you do the homework the same day that the material is covered in class.
• Get in the habit of carrying the units through the solution from start to finish. Units are required as part of the answer and will definitely be required on the tests.
• The WebAssign cutoff day and time is firm. There is no “late homework.”

WEBASSIGN:
• We will use WebAssign for our web-based homework. The site is located at http://webassign.net/student.html. The system will be active Tuesday January 16, 2007.
• Your logon ID is your PAWS e-mail address without the @lsu.edu, i.e., the letters in your email address before the @. For example, if your email address is highgrade@lsu.edu, then your WebAssign logon ID is highgrade.
• Institution is lsu.
• The word hello is your initial password, type it in lower case.
• Please change your password after you log in to the site.
• The first 14 days are free (grace period), that is, until Tuesday January 30, 2007. During this period, use WebAssign to do your homework. Register only after you are sure you will continue with the course since refunds are extremely difficult.
• You can register with a credit card online or you can purchase a registration card at the LSU Bookstore. Ask at the Customer Service Desk. You can also buy web access to the text so you do not need to buy the book!
• You will be given a maximum of 5 submissions. Only the last submission will be graded, no points off for multiple submissions. Your semester percentage score will be used in computing the homework contribution to your grade.
HELP:
• If you do not understand the material or you experience difficulty in working the problems, your first line of help are the self tests, problem solving strategies and solved problems in the Student’s Solution Manual. Be sure you have learned the concepts before you attempt the problems.
• Working in a group can help. Just be sure you try your best to work each problem yourself before you ask for help from a friend. Solutions don’t come easy. You have to spend some time thinking and trying different approaches. Be sure you’ve come to the end of your rope before asking for help.
• If you are still lost, seek help from the graduate student tutors. The place and times are posted at www.phys.lsu.edu/dept/courses/tutor.html. You have paid for this service with your tuition and you are strongly urged to make use of it.
• I am available during office hours for any help you may need with the course material, problem solving, or other matters. I am also available by appointment.

EXAMS:
• There will be three in-class tests (closed book) on material since the last test. Tests will consist of multiple-choice concept questions and worked problems with multiple-choice solutions. Old tests with solutions will be posted on the Website to give you some idea of what to expect.
• Necessary constants and formulae will be given on a formula sheet. No other material is to be used during the test. Notes, books, crib sheets are strictly forbidden. No computers, beepers, pagers, cellular phones or other communication devices are allowed. All backpacks, books, etc must be placed in the front of the room before the exam begins. Turn your cell phone off before a test - the embarrassment of a constantly ringing phone is worth avoiding. Last semester I answered Brittany’s phone for her during a test.
• You will need a scientific calculator and number-2 pencils for the scantron sheet; scantrons will be provided.
• The tests are scheduled in the regular class time and place. The final will be on Thursday May 10 with the room to be announced. Seats will be assigned for all tests and you must bring your ID cards to each exam.

GENERAL EDUCATION STATEMENT:
This course satisfies the General Education requirements in the Natural Sciences area. The learning objectives of this course are to:
• provide students with basic scientific knowledge, and develop logical analysis and problem solving skills that are required for advanced courses in their chosen curriculum.
• instill a comprehension of how scientific knowledge is acquired and applied.
• develop an appreciation of the methods of critical inquiry, particularly the scientific method.

GRADING:
• The course grade is based on 570 points total.
• Homework and quizzes will count for a total of 70 points.
• Each of the 3 tests will count for 100 points and the final exam will count for 200 points.
• For your lowest-scoring test, I will substitute your final exam % if it is larger.
• There is no other make-up work or extra credit in this class.
• All sections follow this grading scheme with the following letter grade correspondence:
  Grade Range (in percent): A: 100–90    B: 89–80    C: 79–60    D: 59–50

FINAL EXAM:
• A two-hour comprehensive test on material covered in the entire semester.
• Same format as the other 3 tests with ~ twice as many questions and problems.
• The final exam is scheduled for Thursday May 10, 3:00 – 5:00 pm with location TBA.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP TESTS. The 3 test dates, carved in stone, are Feb 8, March 8, and April 12 and the Final is May 10. If you miss a test, then it is automatically your lowest scoring test and covered under point 3 of the GRADING section above.

WEB SITE:
• Class information will be posted on the WEB at http://www.phys.lsu.edu/classes which has a link to the actual site at www.surfaces.lsu.edu/2001.
• This will include lecture notes, tests from previous semesters, and solutions to the recent tests (1-2 days after).