PHYS 101 – Principles of Physics I Fall 2010

Lecture	MWF 10:00 – 10:50 AM, McCook 106	
Instructors	Dr. Christoph Geiss McCook 105 Christoph.geiss@trincoll.edu x 4191	Dr. Kalum Palandage (lab section) McCook 224A Kalum.palandage@trincoll.edu x 4197
Office hours	Tue afternoon or by appointment	tba
Text	College Physics by Knight, Jones and Field, 2nd ed., either paper copy or e-text, need to purchase access to mastering Physics separately (see below)	

Class Preparation and Homework Assignments:

I expect you to prepare for each class. Class preparation begins with reading through the assigned part of the textbook chapter and working all the examples in the book. I will not simply reiterate the material that is already covered pretty well in the textbook! To check whether you got the important parts of each reading assignment you are required to complete a set of "warm-up" questions before you come to class. The warm-up part is accessible on **Mastering Physics** and is due an hour before class starts (9:00 AM). This warm-up assignment is a crude check whether you did the reading and is worth 10% of your grade.

Mastering Physics will also be used to assign and submit your homework assignment. You are encouraged to work on the home works in groups, but by the end of the day you will have to be able to do them on your own! My experience has shown that students who don't do the homework will not do well in this course (aside from losing 10% of their grade)

I also expect you to complete your own "warm-up" assignments!

Course Structure:

By the time you show up for class you have already read the corresponding chapter in the textbook, worked the examples and completed a brief pre-class quiz. I therefore will not simply repeat the textbook. Just as a course on Hamlet does not spend its class-time reading Shakespeare, we will not spend time in class to rehash the textbook.

Physics, like any other science, is no spectator sport, so you will spend most your class time discussing and doing problems, rather than taking notes that are already in the textbook.

Weekly Quizzes:

We'll have a very brief (10 min. max) quiz every Friday morning, except for exam days. You can drop your lowest quiz score.

Exams:

We will have three hour exams. You can bring one page of handwritten notes (on my paper) to the exam, so you do not have to memorize any equations and formulas. These three hour exams mostly focus on the material covered since the last exam, but many of these problems have to be considered in context, so you may well be asked to relate recent material to problems covered earlier in the course. There will be no final exam.

Make-up exams and extra time on exams:

Make-up exams are only available to students with legitimate excuses for missing exams, such as severe illness, death in immediate family, or participation in academic or College athletic event. If you must miss an exam please come see me **before** the exam (or as soon as possible in case of an emergency) with **proper documentation**. There will be no exceptions to this policy. If you are allowed extra time for exams, please come see me **soon** after the semester begins, **not** the day of the exam. I am more than happy to accommodate individual student needs but, in accordance with College policy, I must learn of these procedures ahead of time.

All these quizzes and exams serve several purposes: First, they give you immediate feedback on how well you are doing in class. Second they force you to keep up with the material throughout the semester, rather than studying just for the exams. Finally, they reduce the impact of one bad grade on your final score.

Grading Policy:

Warm-up Assignments	10%
Weekly quizzes	20%
Homework	20%
1. hour exam (10/3)	10%
2. hour exam (11/14)	10%
3. hour exam (12/8)	10%
Lab grade	20 %

Grades are not based on a curve, so you won't compete with your fellow students. I encourage you to study together and work on the homework problems together. Teamwork can help you to achieve this goal, but merely copying your colleagues (ungraded) homework assignment won't get you very far. To clarify this point further: it is OK to study together, explain the problems to each other, kick ideas around, even arrive at a solution **together**. It is **not** OK to take a fellow student's ready-made solution and submit it as your own.

Academic (Dis)honesty:

I expect you to be honest and your own work. If you have any concerns about academic dishonesty, read the corresponding chapter in the student handbook or come and see me.

Mastering Physics:

We will use the Mastering Physics homework management system in this course. Rather than ordering the entire package (textbook, workbooks and Mastering Physics account) the bookstore carries only the textbook and you will have to purchase an account with Pearson at the following website:

http://www.masteringphysics.com/site/login.html

- Follow the **Register** (as a student) link
- Select No, I need to purchase online access now
- Select your textbook Knight, Jones and Field 2nd ed. (you can also opt for an e-book at this point, you could also buy the print version of the book plus Mastering Physics access from Pearson as a bundle – it's up to you, but you need it fast)
- Accept their privacy policy
- Select **No**, I do not have an online account (unless you have one already, then you can add your course to your account)
- Create a login name and password

And that's as far as I get without shelling out 50 bucks.

You need to register for the following course: MPGEISSPHYS101F10
You also need to enter your student ID.

Also (this should be obvious): This is where you get homework credit, so don't goof off at registration giving yourself some goofy name… I need to know who you are in order to give you credit.
Finally: every single one of you needs their own account.