

Instructor: Christoph E. Geiss
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Office Hours: Mon: 14:00 - 15:00
Tue: 9:00 - 10:00, or by appointment

Lecture: MWF 12:00 - 12:50

Textbook:

College Physics, (5th edition, 2000), Technology Version, by R.A.Serway and J.S. Faughn, including a set of 3 CD's (core concepts in physics), a core concepts workbook and a CD containing a textbook version of the CD Interactive Physics program.

Web Support:

The course has its own web site, which we will use extensively. It is your primary source to learn about assignments, deadlines, etc. You can access it via the college's Blackboard site. You can access it via <http://my.trincoll.edu/> using your TCOOnline password.

Class Attendance and Lectures:

Class attendance is mandatory and I expect you to be on time, stay for the entire class period and have your cell phone turned off.

We will not spend much class time on reiterating material covered in the text. Class time will be spent furthering your understanding of the material through short lectures, questions, discussions, demonstrations and problem solving sessions. Quizzes and scheduled exams will also be given during class time.

How to Prepare for Class:

Before you come to class you should

- read the assigned chapters
- work through the examples given in the text
- work through some of the assigned homework problems, don't try to do them all the night before they are due
- see me if you have questions, if you can't make it during office hours call me and make an appointment (to make sure I am there), send me an e-mail etc.
- bring your calculator

Out-of-class Time

Understanding Physics takes time, and like a sport it has to be practiced regularly (i.e. every day, or every other day), not crammed into one long overnight session the day the homework is due. College courses require approximately 2-3 hours of work outside of class for every hour spent in class. This means you should expect to devote at least 6-9 hours per week, in order to do well in this course. Start with reading the text, but spend most of your time actually doing physics problems. Your textbook, workbook and CD's provide a variety of problems (many with answers) for you to practice on. Many problems for the quizzes and exams will be taken from this pool of questions.

Homework:

You should do your homework assignments in groups. Teaching others, asking questions and developing ideas in discussions is a great way to learn and understand new things. This means that you can ask others for help on problems, what general principles they used and how to get from one step to the next. You will notice that answering your friends questions will not only help your friend, it will also force you to think over your answer and you'll gain a deeper understanding of the material while helping others.

Group work does not mean: dividing up assignments, so that one person does only do one part, sharing completed assignments, so that others may copy from them, copying work done by someone else and submitting it as your own.

At the end of a group session you should understand the process that led to an answer. Just obtaining a result is not good enough.

I am not worried about you **cheating** during homeworks. Past experience has shown that students who do not spend a lot of effort on homework assignments did very poorly in this class.

Whether or not you work in a group, your final submitted effort must be your own work in your own words. Do not copy somebody's work or allow anyone to copy yours. If you are given a group assignment the same rule applies to the group as a whole. Please indicate who you worked with on all written homework assignments you submit to me.

Physics Journal

I expect you to keep a journal over the course of the semester, where you should keep up with ongoing events that have to do with Physics. The journal is designed to encourage you to keep your eyes open and see how physics affects our everyday (or not so everyday) life. Your sources for the journal could come from newspapers, scientific journals etc.

A journal entry should contain: A complete reference to the original source (that got you started on the entry), a brief summary of the article (approx. 1 page). Your own thoughts on the subject. **This qualifies for an average grade on the entry (C).** In order to do better I expect you to follow up on your original entry, read up on it in other journals (and document your follow up work in your journal). I will collect a random sample of journals each week and give you feedback on your entries within

a few days.

Deadlines

Deadlines for individual exams will be posted on the Blackboard site. Most assignments will be due in class. Late assignments will be accepted but heavily penalized. If you're up to one day you will lose 50% of your points right now, after that you will not earn credit for the assignment.

Make-up Policies

Exams: Make-ups for exams are only given for serious reasons, such as an illness which makes it impossible for you to attend classes, or similar hardship. Broken alarm clocks, extended vacations, etc. are not considered to be valid excuses. It is your responsibility to notify me of any scheduling problems as early as possible to make arrangements for a make-up exam.

Quizzes: Should you miss a quiz due to illness or some other serious reason you will be permitted to take one make-up quiz at the end of the semester, provided I OK'd it at the time of the missed quiz.

Homework: Up to one day late: 50% off, after that: don't bother.

Laboratory exercises: We can not run special labs for those who miss them. If a conflict arises, talk with your lab instructor ASAP - it may be possible to make arrangements.

Grading:

- 3 Hour Exams 45%
- Quizzes 15%
- Homework 10%
- Lab Grades 20%
- Physics Journal 10%

No final exam, 3 hour exams are enough!