

Lecture: MWF 11:00 - 11:50, McCook 102

Labs: T,W,R 1:30 - 3:55, McCook 217

Instructor: Christoph Geiss, McCook 105, christoph.geiss@trincoll.edu, phone: x4191

Office hours: Mon 1-2 PM, Tue 1:30 - 2:30 PM, or by appointment

Text: Knight: Physics for Scientists and Engineers, 2nd ed., make sure to get the entire package, including the student workbook and access to Mastering Physics

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 for the main part of 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.

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.

Exams:

We will have three hour exams. You can bring one page of handwritten notes to the exam, so you do not have to memorize any equations and formulas. You will not be allowed to use a calculator during the exam. 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.

Final exam:

The cumulative final exam will be held on December 12th from 9:00AM - 12:00 noon. Same rules as for the quizzes: no calculator, one sheet of handwritten notes.

Make-up 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 immediately after the exam in emergencies) 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	15%	
Homework		10%
1. hour exam (10/3)		10%
2. hour exam (11/14)		10%
3. hour exam (12/8)		10%
final exam		20%
Lab grade		15 %

Grades are not based on a curve, so you won't compete with your class mates. 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 students 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.