

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

Labs: M or T 1:30 - 3:55, McCook 217

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

Office hours: Mon 13:00 - 14:00, Thu 13:30 - 14:30, Wed before 9:00 or by appointment

Text: R.D. Knight, Physics for Scientists and Engineers with Mastering Physics, Addison Wesley, 2004

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” assignment is due the day of the lecture at 8:00 AM and will be submitted electronically. Its purpose is twofold: First, it lets you check whether you understood the material covered in the reading assignment. Second, it allows me to identify what you already understand and where you (or some of you) might still have problems.

The warm-up assignment could consist of a few multiple choice questions and a short-answer question designed to check your understanding of a certain concept covered in the reading material. For multiple choice questions I expect a brief justification of your answer. Many questions will be of a conceptual nature, rather than simple quantitative problems. I will look over your answers before class and they will be part of that day’s lecture.

These warm-up assignments will be complemented by a weekly homework assignment. The assignment consists of two parts. As part of the course you will submit your assignment to a course website, called **Mastering Physics**. In addition I might give you a few problems that are not really suited for being answered on a website.

You are encouraged to work on the homeworks 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 repeat the textbook. Just as a course on Hamlet does not spend its class-time reading Shakespeare, we will not spend that much 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.

Exams:

We will have three hour exams, consisting of five problems. You can bring one page of handwritten notes to every exam, so you do not have to memorize any equations and formulas. I will also give you an integral table if necessary. You will not be allowed to use a calculator during the exam. We will have one final exam

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.

Grading Policy:

Homework:	10%
3 hour exams	30%
Final exam	25%
Quizzes	20%
Lab	15%

Grades are not based on a curve, so you won't compete with your class mates. I encourage you to work on the problems together. However, you will have to make sure that **you** understand the problem and that **you** are able to solve it on your own. Teamwork can help you to achieve this goal, but merely copying your colleague's homework assignment won't get you very far.

Blackboard etc.

I will not use Blackboard in this course. It has a tendency to fail right before finals week and modifying materials from course to course is a pain. All your reading assignments, homeworks, a copy of the syllabus and this info sheet are accessible at:

http://www.trincoll.edu/~cgeiss/PHYS_231L/231_default.htm

Academic (Dis)honesty:

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