

SCP 231.165, General Physics I, Syllabus - Fall 2019.

Instructor	Roman Senkov	Phone
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Office Hours	M: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM F: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Office: M-209
Lectures:	W: 9:15 AM – 11:30 AM F: 9:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Classroom: C-443 Classroom: M-135
Laboratory:	M: 9:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Classroom: E-348

Textbook: Fundamentals of Physics, 10th ed., Halliday, Resnick and Walker (Wiley). Chapters 1 to 19.

Description: First semester of a year-long sequence intended for scientists and engineers. The course covers the topics of kinematics, mechanics, energy, fluids, and thermodynamics. Physical principles are also demonstrated with a “hands on” laboratory experience.

This course has prerequisite MAT 201.

Evaluation: The grade in this course will be based on the 4 exams (70 points), homeworks (20 points), laboratories and reflections (10 points). Exams and homework will be hard. Expect an average between 50% and 75% for each exam. **There is NO extra credit available.**

4 Exams	70 points
Homework assignments	20 points
Laboratories	10 points
Total	100 points

Letter grades will be determined by your instructor so you should ask him for details regarding what percentages are required for a specific letter grade. The last time I taught a similar class (21 students) the grades were 5 A's, 6 B's, 3 C's, and 7 W's. I anticipate a similar distribution this time.

Calculators: You are allowed to use scientific and graphing calculators for solving problems in this class, which includes exams. The calculator, however, is not permitted to have an internet connection or have a purpose other than that of performing calculations: TI-89 is fine to use. In addition, cell phones and tablets are not allowed during exams.

Homework: 11 homework assignments will be distributed on-line using WileyPLUS. The deadline for getting help from me is on Friday 16:00. Except for certain weeks the absolute deadline for submitting answers is 11:59 PM Sunday. Needless to say, the absolute deadline on Sunday at one minute before midnight (plus or minus 5 minutes) is absolute. No excuses are accepted. Please check the class calendar for a detailed schedule of this course, including homework deadlines and exams.

Suggestion: Do not wait until the last day to do your homework. It is not a good strategy to wait for the weekend to do your homework. I emphasize that is important that you develop the ability of coming up with an answer by yourself. The purpose of the homework is that you learn and practice, not that you earn points! It is also a good idea to review those questions/problems that you did wrong in the homework (if any) to understand what went wrong. Knowing all the answers does not guarantee a good performance in the exams.

WileyPLUS: You will submit your solutions to the problems over the Internet. The WileyPLUS system gives you instant feedback, telling you whether your answers are correct. If not, WileyPLUS allows you to try again without penalty, up to a certain limit set for each problem (usually 3-5).

Logging on: All you need is an Internet connection and your favorite web-browser (Safari, IE, Firefox, etc.) There are many computers located all over campus you may use. Many of you also have Internet access from your apartment. It is your responsibility to obtain an access code and register for Wiley+. You can order an eBook and code with access to all sorts of multimedia for about \$100 on Wiley's website. Once registered you can access the full content of the text book, the accompanying resources and complete the homework problems assigned by me.

Disclaimer: WileyPLUS has been successfully used over the past few years in many Physics Departments and I am confident that it will work fine for this course. However, in the unlikely event that the system fails to perform as planned and homework grades are not available, I will base course grades entirely on the results of the four exams and the laboratory.

Exams: There will be three midterm exams and one final noncumulative exam:

- **Exam 1:** October 2nd (Wednesday)
- **Exam 2:** October 30th (Wednesday)
- **Exam 3:** November 27th (Wednesday)
- **Final Exam:** December 18th (Wednesday)

Please note that no make-up exams will be given. If legitimate circumstances (as judged by me) cause you to miss one of the first three exams, and you notify me (or leave a message at the Natural Sciences Department Office, M-204) of your predicament, then this missed exam will be counted according to your average performance on other tests. Even under these strict conditions, you can miss only one midterm exam. In addition, all students must take the final exam in order to pass this course. Calculators may be used but not shared during the exams. However, phone calculators may not be used. You may bring one 3" x 5" index card to each exam. All exams will consist of 15-20 multiple choice questions. Both quantitative and qualitative questions will be asked. Each exam will be worth 15% of your final grade. Again, exams will be hard. Practice, practice, practice.

Laboratory and Invited talk: Laboratory instructions will be available online on blackboard unless otherwise noted. They will be made available to you before the Laboratory meeting and it is highly recommended that you familiarize yourself with the experiment BEFORE you go to lab. Students must complete and hand in all reports.

Please note that 2 points out of 10 are reserved for a **special assignment**, for which you will be asked to attend an invited talk (or read a scientific article) and write a 2-pages reflection. The specific dates for the talk and the instructions for your reflections will be provided by the instructor separately. Although laboratory and reflection counts only 10% of the grade, a student cannot receive a passing grade without completing all the requirements.

Course Schedule: Please check the class calendar.

Office Hours: I will be happy to help you during my office hours. Please try to respect office hours as much as possible. Office hours may change depending upon your convenience and my own.

Academic Integrity Policy: Instructors of this course are required to implement the College Policy regarding cheating on examinations and quizzes. A complete statement of the policy is available at the student counseling services.

Attendance Policy: Attendance at all class sessions, lecture and laboratory, it is essential for proper understanding and mastery of the course material. A student who is absent from more than one class seriously jeopardizes his/her grade for the course. Four absences will reduce your final score by one letter grade, for example from an "A" to "A-", eight by two letter grades. A student who is absent nine or more classes fails the class automatically without any exceptions. Being in class on time is as important as attending the class.

Final Words: Physics is not an easy subject for most students. In addition, you will find this course to be very fast paced. This is necessary to complete all the material. Please be aware of the following:

- 1. It is easy to fall behind in physics but very hard to catch up. As a result, it is impossible to cram for a physics test. You must keep up with homework assignments and class lectures.
- 2. Physics is a cumulative discipline. You must understand Chapter 2 before moving onto Chapter 3 and principles learned in Chapter 4 will be applied in Chapter 14.
- 3. I urge you to attend every class and carefully take notes.
- 4. Since homework is worth 20% of your grade, it is very difficult to pass the class if you do not do your homework.

Students with disabilities: LaGuardia Community College provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities, or services. Please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at (718)-482-5279 in room M-102.

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