

Unique # 55825 MWF 11:00-12:00 PAI 4.42

Instructor: Greg O. Sitz, Office: RLM 10.218, Office Hours: M 9:30-11:00, Tu 4:30-5:30, Phone: 471-0701, email: gositz@physics.utexas.edu.

Grader: Aya Ishihara, Office: at the coaching tables, 5th Floor RLM, Office Hours: Th 3:00-5:00, email: aya@physics.utexas.edu.

Text: **Conceptual Physics** by *Paul Hewitt* (8th Ed., Addison Wesley, 1998).

Brief Description: Physics 309L covers electricity and magnetism, light, and selected topics in modern physics. This material is covered in chapters 21 through 35 in the text, so we will cover roughly one chapter per week. It is highly desirable to have had a previous course in mechanics (such as PHY 309K), but this is not essential. This course is conceptual not computational and is designed for non-technical majors.

Grade Points: Grade points are assigned for **Homework, Projects, Hour Exams**, and the **Final Exam**; your semester grade will be computed based on the following cutoffs:

greater than 85% of the available points = A
greater than 70% but less than 85% = B
greater than 60% but less than 70% = C
greater than 50% but less than 60% = D
less than 50% of the available points = F

Hour Exams: There will be three in-class hour exams at the dates listed below, and all three will count toward the final grade. Together the three in-class exams will count for 40% of the final grade. The exams will consist of a mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions. Practice problems that are representative of the exam questions will be distributed periodically to help you prepare. If you are absent from an examination for the observance of a religious holy day you may complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence, if proper notice has been given. Notice must be given at least seven days prior to the exam.

Exam 1: Wednesday, September 30

Exam 2: Friday, October 30

Exam 3: Monday, November 30

Final Exam: The Final will be a comprehensive exam similar in format to the hour exams and will count for 25% of the total grade. It is **required** to pass the course.

Final Exam: Friday, December 11, 2:00-5:00 PM

Homework: will be distributed and due approximately weekly and will count for 25% of the final grade. You are encouraged to discuss homework with anyone you wish; however, all written homework must be prepared independently (by you). Homework is due at the end of class on the specified day. Homework that is between 1 minute and 1 week late will be accepted with a 50% penalty. Homework later than this will not be accepted.

Projects: At the end of most of the chapters in the book are one or more small experiments under the heading of “projects”. You are to do two of these of your choosing and to write a short (1 to 2 page) report on what you did and what you actually found (**not** what you think you were supposed to find). Together these reports will count 10% of the final grade. These can be turned in at any time but are due before the last day of class.

Reference Cards: You may use 3”x5” cards with anything you have written on them as help cards on any exam (including the final), but no other reference may be used. You may use as many cards as you want. Anything you personally write on the cards is allowed, but you are not allowed to use printed, xeroxed, or copied material and are not allowed to use others’ cards. Organize your cards well right from the start!

Bonus Points: Available for assistance with class demonstrations (1 point). For reporters who give class presentations on outside work: 2 points. Please volunteer.

Coaching: Available on the fifth level of RLM by the elevators. The coaches are graduate students; insist they explain things without math. Hours: 9:00-5:00.

Other: The last date to drop the course without possible academic penalty is September 23, 1998. The last day to drop the course for academic reasons is October 21, 1998.

Please notify me of any modification/adaptation you may require to accommodate a disability-related need. You will be requested to provide documentation to the Dean of Students’ Office, in order that the most appropriate accommodations can be determined. Specialized services are available on campus through Services for Students with Disabilities.

Advice: For some tips on learning physics and on university life in general, see:

<http://wwwrel.ph.utexas.edu/~larry/how/how.html>

Alternatives: This document as well as other course related material is available (this may take a few days) at:

<http://www.ph.utexas.edu/~gositz/phy309l.html>