

Course Information Physics 141, Fall 2007

- Instructor: Professor F. L. H. Wolfs
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URL: <http://teacher.pas.rochester.edu/>
- Teaching Assistants: Aaron Mislivec (mislivec@pas.rochester.edu): recitations
Jason Robin (jrobin@mail.rochester.edu): recitations
Sam Harrold (sharrold@mail.rochester.edu): laboratories
Andreas Gennis (agennis@mail.rochester.edu): laboratories
Zhen Qi (zqi@mail.rochester.edu): laboratories
Kristen Beck (kbeck@mail.rochester.edu): VPython tutorials
- Text: R. Chabay and B. Sherwood, Matter & Interactions, Volume 1, Modern Mechanics, Second Edition (required)
P. Bevington and D. Robinson, Data Reduction and Error Analysis (required).
- PRS: PRS transmitters are required to be able to participate in the quizzes and Q&A during lecture. These transmitters can be rented from the bookstore.
- Course Homepage: <http://teacher.pas.rochester.edu/Phy141/Phy141HomePage.htm>
- Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9.40 am - 10.55 am (Hoyt).
- Recitations: Tuesdays: 2.00 pm - 3.15 pm (location Hylan 618).
Tuesdays: 3.25 pm - 4.40 pm (location B&L 315).
Wednesdays: 2.00 pm - 3.15 pm (location Morey 524).
Wednesdays: 6.15 pm - 7.30 pm (location Gavett 310).
Recitations will start on Tuesday September 11.

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Laboratories: During the semester you will complete 5 laboratory experiments (roughly one experiment every two weeks). The schedule of these experiments is as follows:

- Experiment 1: September 17.
- Experiment 2: October 1.
- Experiment 3: October 15.
- Experiment 4: November 12.
- Experiment 5: December 3.

Each experiment will take 2.5 hours to complete. Currently, two laboratory sections are offered: Mondays between 2 pm and 4.40 pm and between 6.15 pm and 8.55 pm. All laboratories, except Experiment # 4, will be conducted in B&L 407.

Office Hours: Wolfs:

Starting September 11 on Tuesdays between 11.30 am and 12.30 pm, on Wednesdays between 9 am and 10 am, and by appointment.

Teaching Assistants:

TBA

Homework: Homework will be assigned each Thursday. The homework is due the following Thursday at 8.30 am. A fraction of the homework assignments are distributed and completed electronically, using WebWork, while the rest will have to be dropped of in the Physics 141 homework locker, across from B&L 106.

Each homework set will consist of a number of quantitative problems that are based on the material discussed the previous week. The problem sets will reinforce the course material and it is critical for your survival in this course to complete the assignments and understand any mistakes you may have made while working on these problems.

Extra credit can be earned by completing various programming problems using the VPython programming language. The extra credit problems will be part of the regular homework assignments.

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- Final Grade: The final grade will be the weighted average of:
1. Final exam (20 - 25 %)
 2. 3 Mid-term exams (15 - 20 % each)
 3. Homework (15 %)
 4. Lab (15 %)
 5. Quizzes (5 %)
- Pre- and post-tests: Thursday September 11, 8.45 am - 9.30 am (Hoyt)
Tuesday December 11, 8.45 am - 9.30 am (Hoyt)
- Midterm exams: Tuesday October 9, 8.00 am - 9.30 am (Location TBA)
Thursday November 1, 8.00 am - 9.30 am (Location TBA)
Tuesday November 27, 8.00 am - 9.30 am (Location TBA)
- Final exam: Wednesday December 19, 4 pm - 7 pm (Hoyt)
- Exam policy: As part of each exam you will receive a sheet of useful equations that cover the material that is covered on the exam. You will be able to view/download the equation sheet before the exam so that you will be able to determine what information will be provided on the exam. Do not spend your time memorizing formulas; it is more important that you understand how to use them!
- Quizzes: Quizzes will be given during lecture. Short questions, related to the material being discussed, will be given. The answers will be submitted electronically using your Personal Response System (PRS) transmitter. It is thus very important that you stay up-to-date with the material that is covered in class.

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Final Grade

The final grade you earn is the weighted average of:

1. Final exam (20 - 25 %)
2. 3 Mid-term exams (15 - 20 % each)
3. Homework (15 %)
4. Lab (15 %)
5. Quizzes (5 %)

I will calculate the final grade in 4 different ways:

	Exam 1	Exam 2	Exam 3	Final	Homework	Lab	Quizzes
1	15%	15%	15%	20%	15%	15%	5%
2	---	20%	20%	25%	15%	15%	5%
3	20%	---	20%	25%	15%	15%	5%
4	20%	20%	---	25%	15%	15%	5%

The final grade is based on the highest grade calculated using the 4 different methods outlined above.

I do **not** grade on a curve. Why should I assume that x% of you will be failing this course? If you all do an excellent job, you all deserve an A. If you all do a poor job, you all deserve to fail. How well your neighbor is doing should not affect your grade! In the table below I have listed the grading table I will be using in this course.

score < 30% :	F	55% ≤ score < 60% :	C+
30% ≤ score < 35% :	D-	60% ≤ score < 65% :	B-
35% ≤ score < 40% :	D	65% ≤ score < 70% :	B
40% ≤ score < 45% :	D+	70% ≤ score < 75% :	B+
45% ≤ score < 50% :	C-	75% ≤ score < 80% :	A-
50% ≤ score < 55% :	C	80% ≤ score :	A