

# Course Information Physics 121, Spring 2008

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Text: Physics for Scientists & Engineers, Volume 1, Fourth Edition, by Douglas C. Giancoli.

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/Phy121/Phy121HomePage.htm>

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9.40 am - 10.55 am (Hoyt).

Workshops:

M	1300-1515	B&L 270
M	1525-1725	B&L 270
M	1650-1850	HYLAN 618
T	1525-1725	MOREY 524
T	1650-1850	MOREY 504
T	1815-2015	HYLAN 203
W	1525-1725	MEL 209
W	1650-1850	B&L 269
W	TBA	

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R 1300-1500 HYLAN 203  
R 1940-2140 HYLAN 305  
R TBA

F 1300-1500 LATT 431  
F 1400-1600 B&L 315  
F 1400-1600 B&L 270

Workshops will start on Monday January 28.

**Laboratories:** The physics 121 laboratory is a required component of the course, but will be graded pass/fail. You will need to pass the lab in order for me to be able to assign a course grade. If you fail the lab, you will not receive a course grade until you have made up or repeated the lab work at the "pass" level.

Information about the labs can be found on the web at <http://web.pas.rochester.edu/~physlabs/>.

**Office Hours:** Wolfs:  
Starting January 22, Tuesdays between 11.30 am and 1.30 pm.

Teaching Assistants:  
TBA

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned each Friday. The homework is due the following week on Saturday at 8.30 am. The homework assignments are distributed and completed electronically, using WebWork. Occasionally, there may be 1 or 2 problems on a homework assignment that need to be submitted in writing. The solutions to these problems need to be dropped off in the Physics 121 Homework Locker, outside 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

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survival in this course to complete the assignments and understand any mistakes you may have made while working on these problems.

- Final Grade: The final grade will be the weighted average of:
1. Final exam (25 - 30%)
  2. 3 Mid-term exams (15 - 20% each)
  3. Homework (20%)
  4. Quizzes (10%)
- Pre- and post-tests: Tuesday January 22, 8.45 am - 9.30 am (Hoyt)  
Tuesday April 29, 8.45 am - 9.30 am (Hoyt)
- Midterm exams: Thursday February 28, 8.00 am - 9.30 am (Hoyt)  
Tuesday March 25, 8.00 am - 9.30 am (Location TBA)  
Tuesday April 22, 8.00 am - 9.30 am (Location TBA)
- Final exam: Thursday May 8, 4 pm - 7 pm (TBA)
- 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 (25 - 30%)
2. 3 Mid-term exams (15 - 20% each)
3. Homework (20%)
4. Quizzes (10%)

The physics 121 laboratory is a required component of the course, but will be graded pass/fail. You will need to pass the lab in order for me to be able to assign a course grade. If you fail the lab, you will not receive a course grade until you have made up or repeated the lab work at the "pass" level.

I will calculate the final grade in 4 different ways:

	Exam 1	Exam 2	Exam 3	Final	Homework	Quizzes
1	15%	15%	15%	25%	20%	10%
2	---	20%	20%	30%	20%	10%
3	20%	---	20%	30%	20%	10%
4	20%	20%	---	30%	20%	10%

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

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