

PHYS 110 – Introductory Physics I
Course Outline: Jan 2017 – April 2017

Instructor: Dr. M. Laidlaw
Section: A01
Office: Elliott 106
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Lectures: 1:00 – 2:30 MR, ELL 168 (A01)
I will post my office hours on the PHYS 110 “CourseSpace” site.

Labs: Lab sections are normally held in Elliott 144. Labs start January 9.
You will be given your laboratory schedule at the first lab.
You must complete all labs and have satisfactory standing to obtain credit for the course. Students who miss their first scheduled lab may be required to withdraw from the course.

Prerequisite: MATH 100, 109, or 102 (MATH 102 is not recommended)
To register in this class, you must have credit for, or be concurrently registered (at UVic) in a calculus class (MATH 100, 102, or 109). We expect that you have mastered equivalent material to BC Physics 12.

Required Texts: “University Physics” Young/Freedman - UVic Custom Edition
“PHYS 110 Workbook” Keeler/Laidlaw
“PHYS 110 Lab Manual”

Course objective:

In this course we will give an overview of, and teach the basic principles of, a number of areas of physics. You will learn to analyze physical systems and to identify the principles by which they operate. You will also learn to apply and interpret mathematical tools such as vectors, calculus, and symbolic manipulation to predict and understand the behavior of these systems. In the process we will stimulate your curiosity about the physical world and help you develop analytical thinking skills that you can apply in your future studies.

Course content:

Newton’s laws; particle dynamics and curvilinear motion; force and momentum; kinetic and potential energy; circular and rotational motion; gravitational and electric forces.

Organizational Details:

Midterm Exams:

There will be two midterm exams, tentatively on February 20 and March 20.

The exams are scheduled for 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm both days.

We will give instructions about exam location near the time of the exams.

If these exams conflict with scheduled university activities, such as tutorials, lectures, or labs, please contact the course coordinator (Dr. Laidlaw).

We expect you to write both midterm exams.

Final Exam:

There will be a final exam during the April exam period.

The date is centrally scheduled, and normally finalized in late February.

Do not plan April travel before you know the exam schedule.

You must write the final exam to get credit for this course.

Supplementary Course Material:

We will distribute any course material via the “CourseSpaces” site for PHYS 110, available at coursespaces.uvic.ca. We expect that this material will include guidance about what material to study in preparation for lectures and exams.

Assignments:

Assignments will be assigned and due approximately weekly.

Assignments will be administered through the UVic “CourseSpaces” site.

We have chosen to administer assignments through this system because it can provide prompt feedback that will help you learn the material and as part of a study into the effectiveness of administering assignments in “CourseSpaces”.

Accommodations:

We are willing to arrange reasonable accommodations for:

- Missed exams due to illness or other severe affliction;
- Missed assignments or course deadlines due to illness or other affliction;
- Conflicts between classes or examinations and your religious observances;
- Issues documented through RCSD; and
- Other issues.

If you miss an exam for any reason, we expect you to contact us as soon as possible after the exam. If you anticipate missing a course requirement, we expect you to contact us a reasonable amount of time in advance.

If something comes up that adversely affects your performance, please talk to your instructor. We can't help you if we don't know about the problem.

RCSD mediated accommodation will be arranged through the course coordinator.

Students who have previously attempted PHYS 110 may be eligible to be *exempted* from laboratory work; applications for this exemption will only be considered prior to January 13.

Keys to Success

Don't cheat on exams, assignments, or in your labs. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic fraud are taken very seriously both by the instructor and the University. The *Policy on Academic Integrity* can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar. It is available online at:

<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoAcI.html>

You should note that the typical penalty for cheating on an exam is being assigned the grade F in the course. If the instructor has a reasonable apprehension that an academic integrity violation has occurred then they may take this into account in their exercise of academic judgment when assigning grades; this is separate from any disciplinary process.

There are several places where you can get help, both with Physics and with other issues:

- The Physics Aid Center (drop-in Physics Q&A held in Elliot 038)
- The Learning Commons (help with Math, Writing, and Learning Skills.)
- Your instructor. I have office hours for a reason.
- Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (472-4946)
- Counseling Services (721-8341)

Keys to success:

- Attend lectures – you won't be exposed to the material if you don't.
- Read the text – the text explains things in a slightly different way from me; having access to different perspectives will help you synthesize the material.
- Read the workbook – I have chosen the problems in it to serve as examples of the concepts we believe are important.
- Do the assignments – I choose the problems to help teach the principles that are important for learning.
- Study – I expect that this class will take you around 12 hours per week between classes, labs, assignments, and studying.
- Ask for help if you find yourself falling behind.

What I expect you to do:

- Read the text prior to coming to lecture.
- Work through problems in the workbook as the material is covered.
- Start your assignments well before the due date.
- Study continually; this isn't a class you can do well in with a "cram and memorize" strategy.

You may ONLY use a non-programmable, non-graphing calculator for exams. Examples of acceptable calculators are the Sharp EL-510R or EL-510RNB; they can be bought in the Bookstore for about \$10.

Marking and Grades:

To obtain credit in the course you must:

- Have a satisfactory score on the final (end-of-term) exam. In the past a score of roughly 40 has been minimally satisfactory.
- Complete all labs *and* have satisfactory standing in the labs.
- Have a score above 50 based on the following method of calculation:

	Scheme 1	Scheme 2	
Assignments	10	10	approximately weekly
Labs	15	15	all labs must be completed
Midterms	15	25	
Final Exam	60	50	

Your score will be calculated from the scheme that gives the higher result.

In all cases, I will use the score (as determined above) to guide my determination of an appropriate letter grade. Once I have determined an appropriate letter grade, I will assign a corresponding percentage grade. The University of Victoria has a standardized conversion between percentage grades and letter grades. This marking scheme is:

A+	90-100	B+	77-79	C+	65-69	F	0-49
A	85-89	B	73-76	C	60-64		
A-	80-84	B-	70-72	D	50-59	N	Not Complete

The meanings of the percentage grades are explained in the current Undergraduate Calendar. I will ensure that assigned grades correspond to the narrative descriptions.

The official descriptions can be found online:

<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/FACS/UnIn/UARe/Grad.html>.

In Physics, a discipline norm is that mastery combines very good comprehension with the ability to demonstrate that comprehension under time pressure, such as in an exam situation. Full engagement with course activities includes submitting essentially all assignments.

Marks in individual components typically roughly correspond to the following grades:

Exams:	0-40: F	40-60: C/D	60-80: B-range	80-100: A-range
Assignments:	0-50: F	50-80: C/D	80-100: A or B-range	
Labs:	0-50: F	50-70: D	70-100: A through C-range	

In the past, courses like this have typically had roughly the following grade distribution:

A-range: 20%; B-range: 40%; C/D-range: 30%; F: 10%

I do not grade on a curve.

I will review all lab marks prior to assigning a final grade.

I will normally not offer supplemental examinations or assign the grade E.

The grade N is a failing grade that indicates that you did not complete the required course work. I will assign an N if you do not write the final exams, if you do not complete all labs, or if you do not have satisfactory standing in the labs.

I will assign the percentage grade 0% for all N grades.

Studies being done on this course

#1 - Assignments

Assignment completion rates in this course will be the subject of a study conducted by Mark Laidlaw and Richard Keeler. The purpose of this research is to

- Measure the percentage of students who complete the assigned homework
- Quantify the relationship between homework completed and assigned final grades.
- Assess the viability of different methods of automated assessment

The anticipated benefit is to demonstrate whether assignments can be administered through UVic's CourseSpaces system. The data used in the study will be anonymous. The use of your data will not affect your mark in any way; no analysis will be done before grades are finalized. Your data will be processed as follows: Using the student number, final grades will be associated with scores on each assignment. All identifying features such as student number are then removed from the data.

In class, near the end of the course, a questionnaire about your experiences with the online assignment system will be circulated. This questionnaire will be anonymous, you are not required to complete it. The goal of the questionnaire is to get qualitative feedback regarding the assignments which grades alone fail to capture.

If you have questions about the methods and goals of the research, about how your data will be used, or about the use of your data, please contact Mark Laidlaw by email at laidlaw@uvic.ca. You may verify the ethical approval of this study, or raise any concerns you might have, by contacting the Human Research Ethics Office at the University of Victoria (250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca).

#2 – Exams

Exam results in this course will be the subject of a study conducted by Mark Laidlaw.

The object of the study is to characterize the difficulty of exam questions. The anticipated benefits of the study are to help standardize course grades from year to year, and to improve question design. The data used in the study will be anonymous and will be statistical in nature (for example, 53% of students who got a "B" answered question 20 correctly). The use of your exam data will not affect your mark in any way, as no analysis will be done before grades are finalized. You will receive a follow-up email with more details after the completion of the course. If you have questions about the methods and goals of the research, or about how your data will be used, please contact Mark Laidlaw by email at laidlaw@uvic.ca.

You may verify the ethical approval of this study, or raise any concerns you might have, by contacting the Human Research Ethics Office at the University of Victoria (250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca).