

PHYS 110 – Introductory Physics I
Course Outline: Sept 2026 – Dec 2026

Instructors: M Laidlaw laidlaw@uvic.ca (coordinator)
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M Kelly jmkelly@uvic.ca

Please email us directly rather than using any LMS messaging function.
Include PHYS 110 in the email subject and tell us your student number.

Lectures: A01 TWF 10:30-11:20 M Roney
A02 TWF 9:30-10:20 M Roney
A03 TWF 1:30-2:20 T Junginger
A04 TWF 5:30-6:20 M Kelly

Previously recorded lecture videos will be available to all students; you are expected to watch them. The in-person sessions will be an opportunity for the instructors to elaborate on the theory, applications, demonstrations, and examples as they consider appropriate.

Labs: In-person lab sessions will be held starting on Sept 14.
You must attend your lab section; there is marked work starting Sept 14.
All students will complete their labs in person.

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:

A textbook, lab manual, and other course resources by Dr Keeler, Dr Laidlaw, and Dr Martin will be available electronically.
To access these resources and the assignments you must purchase the text.
The purchase is done through the bookstore, and can be done online.

Other Required Supplies:

You need to ensure you have a computer, a working webcam, and a stable internet connection that can support applications such as Zoom or playing online videos.

Electronics Policy for Exams:

The only permitted calculator for any exam is a Sharp EL-510 series non-programmable, non-graphing calculator. Cellphones, tablets, and computers are not permitted in exams. Internet-connectable personal electronics including smart watches, headphones, smart glasses, or any similar devices are not permitted. Technologies that conflict with this policy but are used for the purpose of academic accommodations will be overseen by the CAL assessment program.

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

Course Learning Goals:

Upon completing this course you will be able to:

- Express and manipulate vectors in three dimensions
- Identify scenarios of translational and/or rotational equilibrium and apply those concepts to solve for unknown quantities
- Express, using calculus, and apply the relationships between position, velocity, and acceleration.
- Recall and apply the relationship between net force and acceleration and between net torque and angular acceleration.
- Calculate fundamental forces on objects, including gravity, the electric force, and the magnetic force.
- Calculate forces on such as the normal force, friction, spring force, and tension as appropriate.
- Calculate and apply quantities and concepts including momentum, angular momentum, work, kinetic energy, potential energy, and use those to solve problems.
- Identify and appropriately apply the concepts of conservation to various scenarios.
- Use Kirchoff's laws to analyse and solve problems relating to direct current circuits.
- Analyse physics problems to identify relevant physics concepts, combine multiple concepts, and properly apply calculation techniques to solve those problems for unknown quantities.

Modality and Assessment Design:

The modality of instruction in this course is primarily face-to-face.

There are some course elements that can only be completed in-person:

(1) the labs, (2) the midterm assessments, and (3) the final exam.

This course's evaluation is structured through the lens of "universal design". The instructors have assessed the essential learning goals of the course and made a determination about how and where flexibility can be offered and articulated it clearly for everybody. The provisions (detailed below) which allows some omission or substitution of work are intended as a full and reasonable accommodation for issues such as illness, conflict of commitment, unexpected adverse circumstances, or episodic productivity issues. They are intended and will be used as a "first resort" for all cases, and in nearly all cases will be all the provision necessary.

The following provisions apply to all students:

- If you miss a single midterm for any reason its weight will be transferred to the final exam.
- If you write both midterms the lower score of the two can be replaced by a higher score on the final exam.
- If you miss both midterms you will be given the opportunity to write an exam to replace one midterm near the end of the term. The other will be replaced by the final.
- Your lab score will be based on the best 5 (of 6) lab submissions.
- If you miss two or three labs because of illness or conflict of commitment you will be offered a single makeup lab at the end of the term.
- Up to three assignment marks can be replaced by the mark on the corresponding "teaching assignment", and after that replacement has been done your assignment score will be based on the best 10 (of 11) assignment submissions.

If you anticipate missing an in-person course element because of illness or conflict of commitment you must email the instructors promptly so we can record the information.

If there is an unexpected and major change of circumstances the instructors will modify the course requirements in the same spirit as the original course structure and communicate any changes clearly and promptly. In particular, all exams are anticipated to be in person unless it is impossible to do so.

We ask that you not attend any in-person course component if you are ill; students exhibiting any cold or flu-like symptoms may be asked to leave.

Grading

While we do not grade on a curve, 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%

The essential elements of the course are: (1) the final exam, and (2) submission of a minimum of 4 labs. Students who complete both of these are considered to have made a complete attempt at the course and will be assigned a final letter grade.

There will be four evaluated components, these are described below.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be worth 50% or 60% depending on the weighting of the midterms.

There will be an in-person final exam during the December exam period for all students. This exam will be similar in format to the midterms, and it will be comprehensive. The final exam is a required course element; students who do not write the final exam will be assigned the grade “0% N” unless they are otherwise debarred from writing the final exam.

A deferred exam to accommodate students who are ill or have other issues is tentatively scheduled for Saturday Jan 16 at 9:00am.

To be eligible to pass the course students must have minimally acceptable performance on the final exam (“must pass”), and to be eligible to attain a C or above students must have adequate performance on the final exam. The instructors will use their judgement to determine what constitutes both minimally acceptable and adequate performance. The threshold to “pass” the exam will be at most 40%, and the threshold for “adequate performance” will be at most 50%. Since the deferred exam will be different from the regular exam its thresholds may be different.

Midterms:

The midterms will be worth 20% or 10% as described below:

There will be two midterms on Sat Oct 17 and Sat Nov 14. Both midterms will run from 2:00pm with a benchmark length of 90 minutes. Their locations will be announced. Each will be worth 10%. One midterm score will be replaced by the final exam score if that results in a higher overall score. This means that if you miss one midterm because of illness it is replaced by the final exam. If you miss a midterm because of illness you will need to contact us promptly.

Exceptional Cases: Students who do not write either midterms will have an opportunity to write a midterm worth 10% on Dec 7 at 9:00am.

Assignments:

The assignments are worth 10% as described below:

Regular weekly assignments: Roughly every Wednesday an assignment will come available. It will normally be due on the Wednesday two weeks later. These assignments follow exactly the pace of the course. We anticipate most students will be able to complete them in 3-4 hours. The best 10 of 11 assignments will be averaged to form your assignment mark; up to three assignments may be replaced by the corresponding “Teaching Assignments”

Teaching Assignments: Roughly every Wednesday a “teaching assignment” will come available. All teaching assignments are due on Dec 7. They take a variable amount of time to do, but are structured to assist your studying. They may replace up to 3 assignments in the calculation of your assignment mark. This means that you have the opportunity to make up a assignment that you miss because of illness, conflict of commitment, periodic productivity challenges, or other issue. If you have earned full marks on the regular assignments the only benefit of the Teaching Assignments is practice.

All assignments will be administered through the Webwork system.

The purpose of the assignments is to encourage and assess your continuing engagement with the course material. Since this continuing engagement is an essential process in the course, and as there are some alternatives in the grading scheme, we will not consider modifications of the due dates.

Students who work on the assignments regularly and use them as a tool to identify and practice the processes we teach in this course are, in our experience, much more likely to do well in the course.

Labs:

The labs are worth 20% as described below:

You will be responsible for 6 lab submissions. Your grade in the labs will be based on the best 5 of 6 lab submissions. Submission of a minimum of 4 labs is a required course element. Students who do not attend and submit at least 4 labs will be assigned the grade “0% N” and debarred from writing the final exam. Only labs submitted through Brightspace prior to the deadline and in the proper format will be marked.

Your labs start with an introductory session in the period Sept 14 – Sept 18. At this session you will get instructions about your future lab schedule, further information about the expectations for the labs, and you will perform a simple exercise.

For the remainder of the labs you will normally undertake the in-person lab activities in pairs and take data during the lab period. You will submit your lab work on the BrightSpace website. To be eligible for marking your work must include documentation of your data and also be substantially distinct from the

work of other students. You may not submit the same work as your lab partner. You may not submit work you or another person has done in a previous term. Submitting the same work as another student is addressed by the grading criteria to provide an education opportunity about academic integrity, however incidents may also be addressed under the academic integrity policy.

If you are ill at the time of an in-person lab you may not attend. Your lab instructors are instructed to refuse entry to any student who appears to be sick. It is your responsibility to alert the course instructors if you miss a lab because of illness, conflict of commitment, or similar circumstances; if you do not contact us promptly we will presume you missed for another reason and there will not be any makeup provision.

- If you do not attend one lab because of illness you are accommodated by the grade being calculated omitting one of the labs.
- If you do not attend two or more labs because of illness you may be offered the opportunity to undertake a single lab in-person on Dec 1 or 2. The instructors will contact you about this in late November.
- If you miss three or more labs because of illness it will not be possible to fully accommodate you. You may be eligible to apply to withdraw from the course as long-duration illness has prevented you from fully participating.
- If you fall ill or for any reason are unable to fully complete an individual lab writeup you are expected to submit what you have completed; our provision of makeup opportunities is for students who cannot attend the lab session because of illness. The 3 hour lab session gives you time to do a substantial part of the work.

Lab exemptions: Some students are eligible to apply for exemption from the lab portion of the course. The eligibility requirements are:

- Have a recorded final grade in the course from Sept 2020 or later.
- Submitted all, or all but one, of the labs in that attempt.
- Was assigned an average score of 70% or higher on the labs.
- Registration in lab B39.

Applications for lab exemption are due by Sept 14.

If you apply and are eligible you will be registered in B39 and given a lab test to complete in person on Sept 16. Your score on this will form your lab grade. If after completing the lab test you elect to register in a regular lab and complete the rest of the labs this test will replace your grade for lab 1.

It is a University regulation that to pass the course you must pass the labs. Any student with unsatisfactory standing in the labs will not be able to write the final exam and will be assigned the grade “0% F”.

Academic Integrity

The instructors take Academic Integrity in this course extremely seriously. You can find UVic's Policy on Academic Integrity in the Calendar; [here is a link](#).

In overview, your responsibilities are:

- For the final exam you must complete all work on your own without help from another person or from outside sources.
- For the midterms you must complete all work on your own without help from another person or from outside sources.
- For the labs you must submit your own original work. You may seek help or advice from an instructor or another student. You may not copy or paraphrase from another student. You may not permit your work to be copied or paraphrased by another student.
- For the assignments you must undertake the work yourself. You may seek advice or help from an instructor, other students, a tutor, or other person, but you are responsible for understanding and undertaking the work you submitted.
- Note that it is an academic integrity violation and a violation of UVic policies about information technology to post material from this class to any online "homework help" site.

The instructors are taking several active and passive measures to monitor the course to maintain the integrity of the course.

In the unlikely event that an exam must take place online it will be remotely supervised. If you do not participate in the remote supervision your grade for that course element will be set to 0.

If the instructors have a reasonable apprehension that an academic integrity violation has occurred they will follow the procedure outlined in the Policy on Academic Integrity.

Studies being done on this course

#1 - Assignments

Assignment completion rates and behaviour 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 completion habits and assigned final grades.
- Assess the viability of different methods of automated assessment

The data collected include your score on individual assignments and the times at which you accessed and answered individual assignment items.

The anticipated benefit is to demonstrate whether assignments can be administered through UVic's CourseSpaces system, and to identify assignment completion habits correlated with success so they can be taught to future class sections. 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 and the times the assignment items were accessed. All identifying features such as student number are then removed from the data.

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).

#3 – Exam Completion Times

Exam completion times and grading outcomes of this course are the subject of a study being conducted by Dr. Mark Laidlaw and Dr. Travis Martin. The purpose of this research is to characterize student exam submission behaviours, and examine how they correlate with student performance. One of the factors that will be tested includes the maximum duration assigned, which may imply status as a student with extended time accommodations. The anticipated benefit of this is to provide guidance data for academic administrators in determining policies on universal design.*

The data on completion times and durations will be kept separate from performance data until after the course has ended and final grades have been submitted. Furthermore, the analysis of the exam completion times and grades for students in this course will be performed using anonymized data, free of student names and student ID numbers, after the completion of the course and submission of final grades. The use of the data, and any collected timing data, will not affect your grade in any way.

Students may opt out of having their data analyzed for this study by sending an email to Dr. Mark Laidlaw or Dr. Travis Martin. Opting out of the analysis will in no way affect performance in the course.

If you have any questions about how your data will be used, or details about the study, you may contact the Data Steward, Dr. B.C. Choi, (phastchair@uvic.ca), or you may contact the researchers, Dr. Travis Martin (travismartin@uvic.ca) and Dr. Mark Laidlaw (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).

*Note: Universal Design is a modern pedagogical approach to address accessibility in courses. The approach argues that courses should be designed such that the environment and course policies should be equally usable by all people, regardless of ability or disability, as much as possible. There are many approaches for implementing Universal Design in courses, and these methods vary across disciplines.

Lectures and Assignments	Videos Available (Start – End)	Assignment due
Vectors #1	Sept 7 – Sept 21	Sept 18
Translational Equilibrium #2	Sept 14 – Sept 28	Sept 25
Rotational Equilibrium #3	Sept 21 – Oct 5	Oct 2
Velocity and Acceleration #4	Sept 28 – Oct 12	Oct 9
Second Law #5	Oct 5 – Oct 19	Oct 16
Fundamental Forces #6	Oct 12 – Oct 26	Oct 23
Momentum #7	Oct 19 – Nov 2	Oct 30
Angular Momentum #8	Oct 26 – Nov 16	Nov 6
Work and Energy #9	Nov 2 – Nov 23	Nov 20
Conservation #10	Nov 16 – Nov 30	Nov 27
DC circuits #11	Nov 23 – Dec 7	Dec 4

Please note that the lecture videos and associated material will cease to be available on the dates described above. We limit the video availability because we have found that this results in better performance because it forces you to study throughout the course. You are expected to watch the videos and take notes as part of your ongoing engagement with the course. Your course notes and the text materials will be your primary sources for review material.

In Person Labs	Dates	Report due	Dates	Report due
Lab 1 Measurement	Sept 14 – 18 All Sections	Sept 24		
Lab 2 Comparisons	Sept 21 – 25 Odd	Oct 1	Sept 28 – Oct 2 Even	Oct 8
Lab 3 Quality Control	Oct 5– Oct 9 Odd	Oct 15	Oct 13 – 16 Even*	Oct 22
Lab 4 Graphical Analysis	Oct 19 – 23 Odd	Oct 29	Oct 26 – 30 Even	Nov 5
Lab 6 Histograms	Nov 2 – 6 All Sections	Nov 19		
Lab 5 Inertia Moment	Nov 16 – 20 Odd	Nov 26	Nov 23 – 27 Even	Dec 3

*NB: B02, B04, and B06 will do Lab 3 on Nov 30, with a due date of Dec 7.

**NB: Makeup labs are scheduled on Dec 1 or 2, with a due date of Dec 7.

If necessary lab order may be modified due to equipment availability.

Midterm 1: Oct 17 Vectors, Translational Equilibrium, Rotational Equilibrium, Velocity and Acceleration.

Midterm 2: Nov 14 Second Law, Fundamental Forces, Momentum, Angular Momentum

Alternative Midterm: Dec 7 Work and Energy, Conservation, DC circuits.