PHY 113 Syllabus
Summer 2012

Instructor
Levi Neukirch
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Office Hours:
Monday, 1-3 pm (I’ll be in my office a lot during the week)

Course Website:
http://www.pas.rochester.edu/~lneuk/teaching/phy113.html (username: phy113, password: letmein)

Textbook:
Physics for Scientist and Engineers with Modern Physics (4th edition) - Giancoli

Course components

Lectures:
Monday –Thursday; 9:00am–10:00am, (break), 10:15am–11:15am, B&L 106

Homework:
A number of problems from Giancoli will be suggested at the end of each class as good practice problems. Homework will not be turned in or graded; however, working through and understanding the problems should prepare you for the quizzes and exams (see below).

Workshops:
In addition to lectures, there will be workshop sessions every week. Attendance at these sessions will not be required but it is strongly encouraged, as we will be working through problems. This is also a good time to ask questions about homework problems, or past quiz/exam problems.

Quizzes:
During the last 15 minutes (i.e. at 11am) of EVERY class period a short quiz, similar to the previously assigned homework and workshop problems, will be handed out. These quizzes will comprise 40% of your total grade for the class (so daily attendance will be important!). You’re three worst scores will be thrown out. No notes will be allowed during daily quizzes.

Exams:
There will be a midterm exam at the end of the third week of class, and a final exam at the end of the sixth week. Both exams will be cumulative, covering all the material discussed by their respective dates. Each person will be allowed a single, letter-sized, sheet of paper containing notes, equations, etc. during the exams. You will likely need a calculator (computer or phone calculators will not be permitted).

Midterm exam date: Friday, June 8th, 9:00am-11:15am
Final exam date: Thursday, June 28th, 9:00am-11:15am
Labs:
The lab website is http://www.pas.rochester.edu/~physlabs
The laboratory component of this course is conducted independently from the lectures; however, your lab grade will count for 10% of your final grade for this class. You must complete and turn in ALL labs to get a grade for this course. Prelab worksheets must be completed before lab starts each week! Questions regarding labs should be sent to physlabs@pas.rochester.edu

Grading:
Grades will be assigned on an absolute scale (i.e. I won’t adjust your grades to fit any curve). I’ll even round your final grade UP to the nearest whole percentage point!

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The course components will have the following weight:

- Quizzes: 40%
- Midterm: 25%
- Final: 25%
- Lab: 10%

Fine Print

Academic honesty:
You are encouraged to work together on homework problems and in workshops. All quizzes and exams must be your own work. I am required by the University to report any detected act of cheating to the University Board of Academic Honesty for investigation.

How to be successful:
As with most courses, what you get out of these six weeks will depend on what you put in. I will do my best to present and help you understand the material, but in the end the acquisition of knowledge is your responsibility. This course will move very quickly (we’re shooting for 16 chapters in 24 days!), and falling behind by a few days may add more difficulty than you suspect. The best way to prepare yourself for the quizzes and exams will be to not only do the homework and workshop problems, but to understand them conceptually. In this way you’ll be able to apply that understanding to similar problems when it counts. I will be in my office most of the day during the week, so feel free to come discuss homework problems, questions, or any concerns that may arise.

Important dates:
May 28th (Monday): Memorial Day – No class or office hours
May 29th (Tuesday): No Class, Workshop WILL meet
June 8th (Friday): Midterm exam
June 28th (Thursday): Final Exam

Last updated: 5/18/12