

Fall 2009 PHYSICS 100Lg Conceptual Physics

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Office Hours: Mondays from 10:30 am to noon (and by appointment) in SSC 327

Course summary

Welcome to Physics 100. This general education course will introduce you to some of the main concepts of physics, so that when your kids ask you why the sun is hot or how difficult is it to make an atomic bomb you will be able to give them a reasonably coherent answer. Your kids will then have more respect for you and might not lie to you as often.

The course is designed to be non-technical, so you won't need to work with lengthy formulas, perform tedious calculations, or pay friends to do your homework for you. However, you will need to understand stuff. To help you in your endeavors, there will be some group projects, lots of in-class demonstrations, and a weekly laboratory project.

Texts and other resources

- ☐ Hewitt: *Conceptual Physics 10th Edition W/ Media Update*. (Required) **ISBN:** 9780321548092.

Note that there are a number of internet sites from which you can *rent* this textbook for the semester.

- ☐ Physics 100 Laboratory experiment manual. This will be passed out to you at your lab meeting.
- ☐ We won't use Blackboard. Instead, our class has its own custom web site at

www.physlink.com/classroom

This site will contain homework assignments, solutions, scores, and other information. For this site, your username is your USC e-mail address, and your password is your ten-digit USC ID number (without the dashes).

- ☐ For additional help, TAs are available in SGM 412, 9 am to 4 pm, Monday - Thursday. Your lab TA also has office hours; ask him or her for details.

Grading

Your course grade will be determined according to your performance on:

Homework and projects and occasional quizzes (25%)
2 Midterm exams (adding up to 25%)
Final exam (30%)
Laboratory (20%)

Note that if you miss more than one lab your grade will suffer enormously and may cause you to fail the course. Don't miss more than one lab!

Homework

There will be weekly homework assignments posted on our course website. **Homework will be due at the beginning of class on Tuesdays.** Since homework solutions will be posted on the web soon after class, I will not be able to accept late homework. Your graded homework will be returned to you at your weekly lab.

You are encouraged to work together on the problem sets. (In fact, the best way to make sure you understand how to answer a question is to see if you can explain it to someone else.) However, the final submission must be your own. Be sure to explain your answers: the grader will look at the completeness and legibility of your work, and not just at the final answer.

Do not submit work that is not yours. (That is called cheating, and it will get you thrown out of college.)

Laboratory

Physics is an experimental science, and the laboratory is an essential part of this course. Furthermore, the university's general education requirement mandates a laboratory component. You need to be registered for a Physics 100Lg laboratory section. Labs will be held in SGM 218.

Your lab sections meet for the first time during the first week of classes, i.e., the week of August 24. Attendance is required. You'll do an experiment at that first meeting, so don't be late. Lab TA e-mail: phys100labs@usc.edu

For all issues regarding the laboratory component of this course, you should contact the GE laboratory director, Joseph Vandiver at vandiver@usc.edu, 213-740-8889. Or go see him in SGM 416.

Exams

There will be 2 midterms and 1 final exam in the course. The tentative dates for these exams are:

First Midterm: Thursday, October 1, 2009 during regular class.

Second Midterm: Thursday, November 5, 2009 during regular class.

Final Exam: Thursday, December 10, 2009 starting at 2:00 pm. Room to be announced.

Grades reporter

I will periodically post your scores on our custom web site at:

<http://www.physlink.com/classroom>

Important information and announcements, such as exam dates and locations, will be also posted at this site. If you have problems with this site you should send me an e-mail about the problem: feinberg@usc.edu

Please check your scores regularly. Sometimes we mislay someone's homework or mistype a score. If something goes astray then I need to know about it.

Students with disabilities

Students who need accommodations based on a disability are required to register each semester with Disability Services and Programs. In addition, a letter of verification to the instructor from Disability Services and Programs is needed for the semester you are enrolled in this course. If you have any questions concerning this procedure, please contact the course instructor and Disability Services and Programs at 740-0776, STU 301.

For your convenience, below is a table of important University dates for the Fall 2009 semester:

Aug. 21	Last day to register and settle without late fee
Aug. 24	Fall semester classes begin
Aug. 24-28	Late registration and change of program
Sept. 7	Labor Day, university holiday
Sept. 11	Deadline for purchasing or showing proof of health insurance
Sept. 11	Last day to register and add classes
Sept. 11	Last day to drop a class without a mark of "W," except for Monday-only classes, and receive a 100% refund
Sept. 11	Last day to change enrollment option to Pass/No Pass or Audit
Sept. 11	Last day to purchase or waive tuition refund insurance
Sept. 15	Last day to drop a Monday-only class without a mark of "W" and receive a 100% refund or change to Pass/No Pass or Audit
Nov. 2	Thesis/Dissertation submission
Nov. 13	Last day to drop a class with a mark of W
Nov. 26-28	Thanksgiving recess
Dec. 4	Fall semester classes end
Dec. 5-8	Study days
Dec. 9-16	Final examinations