

Fall 2007 PHYSICS 100Lg Conceptual Physics

Instructor: Prof. Stephan Haas

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Lectures: Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00-3:20

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-5:00

Course Summary

Welcome to Physics 100. The aim of this general education course is to introduce you to the main concepts of physics, so that when your kids ask you why the sun is so hot or how hard is it to make an atomic bomb you'll 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, and 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 group projects, in-class demonstrations, and laboratory experiments.

Texts and Other Resources

- L.D. Kirkpatrick & G.E. Francis, *Physics – A World View* (Thomson-Brooks/Cole, 2007).
- Physics 100 Laboratory experiment manuals. These will be passed out to you at your lab meetings and will also be available on our class web site.
- Our class has its own custom web site at <http://blackboard.usc.edu>. The site will contain homework assignments, solutions, scores, and other information. You can log into that site with your USC username and password.
- For additional help, TAs are available in SGM 412, 9 am to 4 p.m., Monday -Thursday. See the schedule at <http://physics.usc.edu/Undergraduate/TAofficehours.html>.
- 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 (20%)
2 Midterm exams (each 20%)
1 Final exam (20%)
Laboratory (20%)

Note that if you miss too many labs you will receive no credit for your Laboratory grade, and this will adversely affect your course grade (and may cause you to fail the course).

Homework

There will be weekly homework assignments posted on our course website. 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. Don't 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 register for a Physics 100Lg laboratory section. Labs will be held in SGM 218.

Your lab sections meet for the first time in the second week of classes, i.e., the week of September 3. (attendance is required). You'll do an experiment that first meeting, so don't be late. For all issues regarding the laboratory component of this course, you should contact the laboratory director, Joe Vandiver, 213-740-8889, vandiver@usc.edu. Or go see him in SGM 416.

Grades Reporter

You can check your scores and grades at the course website. Important information and announcements, such as exam dates and locations, will also be posted at this site. If you have problems with this site you should send me an e-mail about the problem. 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.

Important Dates for Fall 2007

August 24	Last day to register and settle without late fee
August 28	First class for Physics 100
August 27-31	Late registration and change of program
September 3	Labor Day, university holiday
September 14	Last day to register and add classes and last day to drop with mark of "W"
September 14	Last day to drop a class without mark of "W," except for Monday-only classes, and receive 100% refund
October 9	Midterm 1
November 16	Last day to drop a class with mark of "W"
November 13	Midterm 2
November 22-24	Thanksgiving recess
December 7	Fall semester classes end
December 8-11	Study days
December 13	Final exam – Thursday, December 13, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. <input type="text"/>