

PHYSICS 131 (PHY131-90; Studio) – Physics for Scientists & Engineers – Fall 2020

Course Information, Policies & General Guidelines

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Course ID for Mastering Physics; **SBUPHY131PASCUZZIFALL2020**

GOALS: To ensure that you become adept, confident and highly skilled at problem-solving and learn basic scientific physics at the introductory level.

NATURE OF THE COURSE MATERIAL: PHY131 encompasses the principles of first semester freshman physics with as many real-world applications as possible. The material is heavily laden with challenging concepts, algebra and trigonometry, and some very basic calculus. You should be aware that, upon enrolling into an intensive and fast paced introductory course such as this, there is a serious level of commitment and investment of time required of you should you wish to be successful and earn a good grade.

HOW TO EARN A GOOD GRADE: As with any other college course, you can always do quite a bit to improve your grades, just like doing nothing will hurt your grade. These include;

- 1) Take notes on the required chapter readings and be sure to highlight key items such as laws or important equations that are always true (and not just specific for one question). Read the chapter sections very carefully to be sure you understand it. If you don't, ask for help. You should also work every worked example in the chapter readings to be sure you understand how to apply the particular concept at hand.
- 2) Don't memorize every equation in the book...this is counterproductive. Instead, focus on laws and rules that are always true, rather than trying to "find" an equation that looks like it works. Remember that there is a big difference between laws which are always true and formulae which are specific for a certain question.
- 3) For in-person classes, always sit in the FRONT of the lecture hall/classroom so your attention is better focused and pay attention.
- 4) For in-person classes, leave your cell phone and your laptop OFF; you DO NOT need them during class.
- 5) Get the Schaum's Outline book for College Physics and do all the worked problems until you understand the angle/approach for each one. Then, do the problems again.
- 6) Take your education and work seriously and ask questions if you have to...the worst questions are the ones which are never asked.
- 7) For in-person classes, visit the Help Room during office hours (Room A129 in the Physics building) as often as possible and ask for help. For remotely taught classes, email me at any time about anything. Everyone needs help with physics...you are not the first one. You will be glad that you did, and you will feel more confident after, and will be happy to finally understand something that has bugged you for weeks.
- 8) Be assertive and caring when it comes to your own education...laying low for the first $\frac{2}{3}$ of the semester and then trying to raise your grade by two letters at the last minute doesn't work. Hard and consistent good *will* work but begging for extra credit projects will not work.
- 9) There is no such thing as an extra credit project to take the place of not working hard all semester. Don't even ask.
- 10) Don't miss exams or quizzes...you will not be permitted to make them up unless there is a legitimate valid and documented reason (sleeping late or being in a different time zone do not count).
- 11) Form a regular study group (not a gossip group that wastes time) and sit down and brainstorm about how to solve problems you might be stuck with.
- 12) Do your own work, and keep it to yourself. You are only hurting yourself by not doing so.

TEXTBOOK AND REQUIRED MATERIALS: The recommended text we use is Giancoli, *Physics for Scientists and Engineers*, 4th edition (Pearson Prentice Hall), and is available with the Student Access Code to facilitate logging on to MasteringPhysics.com to complete homework assignments. If you choose not to purchase the text, you will still be responsible for purchasing the Student Access Code for access to MasteringPhysics.com to complete online homework assignments. Various forms of this text are available, including traditional hardcover, looseleaf and e-text. Also note that legally free e-texts are posted for students use at www.openstax.org.

BLACKBOARD: Most of the course administration will be done via Blackboard.

“Blackboard” is **blackboard.stonybrook.edu** and nearly all of the administration of the course will be done through Blackboard, so you must be sure that your correct email address is listed there. During the course, announcements will be posted and sent via email to you concerning updates, changes, etc., and you will also have access to many other items such as supplementary problems for practice to prepare for quizzes and exams. Note that in order to keep up to date with course postings on Blackboard, you must a) have a valid and real email address posted there with your course registration and b) you must READ your email daily. For remotely taught courses, many instructional videos will be posted on google drive which any student can access via their SBU email.

SBU CALENDARS: Note that class calendars are posted within a week prior to the start of classes in the “Class Calendars” folder on Blackboard

HOMEWORK: The importance of learning and understanding physics lies predominantly with becoming adept at problem-solving, a necessity we will cover constantly during every class. To better facilitate both the administration and grading of your homework problems, the Physics Department has invoked online homeworks through MasteringPhysics.com, for which you must purchase an access code (provide your access code to create an account and then access course homework using the code given at the top of this document). The responsibility is yours when it comes to working out homework problems in order to best understand the applications of the laws and concepts involved. Therefore, there will be numerous homework problems assigned during each class which will be graded during the following class during recitation. If you find that you are having any difficulty, please do not hesitate to come for extra help. Since time flies quickly, it is imperative that you stay on top of your own work. Assignment due dates will be clearly shown on MasteringPhysics.com and it will be up to you to check for the next assignments as the course moves along. Again, please realize that homework assignments are done in a web-based format for which you must purchase an account. Please do not delay in opening your account.

QUIZZES: During the semester, we give occasional quizzes which are either clicker quizzes (all MCQ) or paper quizzes (MCQ only or a mix of MCQ and FRQ) for in-person classes. For remotely taught classes, quizzes may be administered in a variety of formats; through Blackboard, through MasteringPhysics.com etc. Further information regarding this will be disseminated as the semester gets underway.

EXAMS: There will be two (2) scheduled exams during the semester and one final exam whose dates will be shown in the course calendars on Blackboard. For remotely taught classes, exams may be administered in a variety of formats; through Blackboard, through MasteringPhysics.com etc. Further information regarding this will be disseminated as the semester gets underway.

COURSE POLICIES & GRADING: Your course grade will be based on the following assignments with the percentages shown (*PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE APPROXIMATE AND MAY CHANGE*);

Quizzes – 15%

Online homework problems – 15%

Midterm Exam – 25%

Lab Work – 20%

Final Exam – 25%

The *approximate grading schema* (“curve”) for letter grades in PHY131 is as shown below. Note there are no curves on exams, however the grading scheme below incorporates a “curve” based on years of teaching and the fact that averages on exams typically fall in the mid to upper 60% range.

	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
Percentage	85-100	81-84	78-80	72-77	69-71	66-68	58-65	54-57	50-53	46-49	below 46

Student Accessibility Support Center (formerly DSS; DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES):

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the Student Accessibility Support Center (formerly DSS in the Educational Communications Center) Building, room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and SASC. For procedures and information go to the following website: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/sasc/>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT:

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Email to your University email account is an important way of communicating with you for this course and should be checked multiple times per day. For most students the email address is

'firstname.lastname@stonybrook.edu'

and the account can be accessed here;

<http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud>

It is your responsibility to read your email received at this account.

For instructions about how to verify your University email or to execute other activities via email, please head here;

<https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/google-apps/mail>

ITEMS REGARDING MISSED ASSIGNMENTS;

EXAMS & QUIZZES:

Missed exams and in-class quizzes count as a grade of **ZERO** unless there is a **VALID DOCTOR'S LETTER ATTESTING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT AT THE TIME/DATE OF THE ASSIGNMENT IN QUESTION**. A “letter” is just that, a letter on medical stationary, not a prescription note pad page. All medical contact information must accompany this letter for verification purposes. **Examples of medical emergencies are NOT:** “I overslept” “I hate a fight with my girlfriend” “I have to play in a soccer game” “My family is going on vacation and they want me to come along” “My mom was abducted by aliens on the day of the exam.” Said medical document must be presented within a timely fashion following the exam/quiz (i.e. within a two days).

Any other situation aside from the above mentioned medical scenario will be discussed and considered privately on a case-by-case basis.

WEBSITE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

Missed homeworks on MasteringPhysics.com count as a grade of **ZERO** and are **NOT RESET** unless there is a **VALID DOCTOR'S LETTER ATTESTING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT AT THE TIME/DUE DATE OF THE ASSIGNMENT IN QUESTION**. A “letter” is just that, a letter on medical stationary, not a prescription note pad page. All medical contact information must accompany this letter for verification purposes. **Examples of medical emergencies are NOT:** “I didn’t know we had a homework due” “I overslept” “I hate a fight with my girlfriend” “I have to play in a soccer game” “My family is going on vacation and they want me to come along” “My mom was abducted by aliens on the day the homework was due” “My internet connection was not working on the day the homework was due.” Said medical document must be presented within a timely fashion following the exam/quiz (i.e. within a two days).

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