PHYSICS

PHY 104 Opportunities in Physics
An introduction to current activities of physicists on Long Island. Stony Brook faculty, alumni and other physicists discuss their current projects and their careers, and relate their activities both to basic undergraduate physics and to areas of ongoing research, such as the unification of the fundamental forces, the search for the quark gluon plasma, and coherent states of atoms trapped at low temperature. Tours of university, industry, and government lab facilities are included, as well as interaction with physicists in non-traditional areas such as medicine, finance, and the media.
Prerequisite: PHY 125 or 131/133 or 141
Corequisite: PHY 126 or 127 or 132/134 or 142
3 credits

PHY 112-E Light, Color, and Vision
An introduction to the modern understanding of light, color, and vision, primarily for non-science majors and especially beneficial to students majoring in visual arts or theatre. Topics include the nature of light; the human eye and vision; illusions, color perception, and color vision; research on color vision loss; the color spectrum; color and color blindness, photography; optical phenomena in the atmosphere (mirages, rainbows, halos); and light in modern physics (relativity, lasers). Not for major credit.
Prerequisite: Satisfaction of entry skill in mathematics requirement (Skill 1) or satisfactory completion of D.E.C. C
3 credits

PHY 113-E Physics of Sports
First part of an introduction to physics from the perspective of sports, especially designed for non-science majors. Basic concepts in classical mechanics and fluid dynamics are used to analyze particular actions in football, baseball, soccer, track and field, and other sports. Students learn, for example, about the knuckle ball in baseball and why it is so hard to hit, and why quarterbacks throw a football in a spiral. The concepts of heat, energy, and calories are also discussed. The laboratory component, PHY 115, may be taken concurrently with or after PHY 113.
Prerequisite: Satisfaction of entry skill in mathematics requirement (Skill 1) or satisfactory completion of D.E.C. C
3 credits

PHY 114-E Electromagnetism, Waves and Radiation for Sports Science
Second part of the Physics of Sports sequence. The focus is on electricity, magnetism, optics, acoustics, radiation, and medical imaging. The laboratory component, PHY 116, may be taken concurrently with or after PHY114.
Prerequisite: PHY 113
3 credits

PHY 115 Physics of Sports Laboratory
Laboratory component of PHY 113. Experiments are designed to help students better understand the physics aspects of sports. Students work in groups and conduct experiments indoors and outdoors. Knowledge of first-year college-level mathematics is recommended but most necessary information is taught in class as needed. May be taken concurrently with or after PHY 113.
Prerequisite: PHY 113
1 credit

PHY 116 Electromagnetism, Wave, and Radiation for Sports Science Laboratory
Laboratory component of PHY 114. Experiments are designed to help students better understand the physics aspects of sports. Knowledge of first-year college-level mathematics is recommended but most necessary information is taught in class as needed. May be taken concurrently with or after PHY 114.
Prerequisites: PHY 113 and 115
Corequisite: PHY 114
1 credit

PHY 119-E Physics for Environmental Studies
The principles of physics as they apply to environmental issues. A review of mathematics is followed by a discussion of Newton’s laws, conservation principles, and the unification of the fundamental forces. It covers mechanics, fluid mechanics, and thermodynamics. Three lecture hours and one laboratory session per week. This course is offered as both ENS 119 and PHY 119.
Prerequisites: MAT 123; CHE 131
3 credits

PHY 121-E Physics for the Life Sciences I
First part of a calculus-based introduction to physics with applications to biology, primarily for students majoring in biological sciences or pre-clinical programs. Topics include mechanics, fluid mechanics, and thermodynamics. Three lecture hours and one recitation hour per week. Laboratory component, PHY 123, must be taken concurrently; a common grade for both courses will be assigned. PHY 121 may not be taken for credit in addition to PHY 125, 131, or 141.
Prerequisites: MAT 125 or 131 or 141 or AMS 151; CHE 131 or 142
Corequisite: PHY 123
3 credits

PHY 122-E Physics for the Life Sciences II
Second part of a calculus-based introduction to physics with applications to biology, primarily for students majoring in biological sciences or pre-clinical programs. Topics include electromagnetism, optics, acoustics, and radiation phenomena. Three lecture hours and one recitation hour per week. Laboratory component, PHY 124, must be taken concurrently; a common grade for both courses will be assigned. PHY 122 may not be taken for credit in addition to PHY 126, 127, 132, or 142.
Prerequisite: PHY 121/123
Corequisite: PHY 124
3 credits

PHY 123 Physics for Life Sciences Laboratory I
Must be taken concurrently with Lecture component, PHY 121; a common grade for both courses will be assigned. Two hours of laboratory per week.
Corequisite: PHY 121
1 credit

PHY 124 Physics for Life Sciences Laboratory II
Must be taken concurrently with Lecture component, PHY 122; a common grade for both courses will be assigned. Two hours of laboratory per week.
Corequisite: PHY 122
1 credit

PHY 125-E Classical Physics A
First of a three-part sequence intended for physical-sciences or engineering majors. It focuses on the mechanics of point particles and simple oscillators, and emphasizes motion in one and two dimensions and the concepts of momentum and energy. Calculus is used concurrently with its development in MAT 125. Three lecture hours, one recitation hour, and two laboratory hours per week. Not for credit in addition to PHY 121/123, 131/133, or 141.
Prerequisite: Level 4 on the mathematics placement examination
Corequisite: MAT 125 or 131 or 141 or AMS 151
4 credits

PHY 126-E Classical Physics B
Second of a three-part sequence for physical-sciences or engineering majors. It focuses on the mechanics of rigid bodies, on fluids, waves, thermodynamics, and optics. Three lecture hours, one recitation hour, and two laboratory hours per week. Not for credit in addition to PHY 122/124, 132/134, or 142.
Prerequisite: PHY 125 or 131/133 or 141
Corequisite: MAT 126 or 132 or 142 or AMS 161 or level 7 or higher on the math placement exam
5 credits

PHY 127-E Classical Physics C
Third of a three-part sequence for physical-sciences or engineering majors. It focuses on electromagnetism using the concepts of vector fields and scalar potentials, and on DC and AC electric circuits. Calculus is used concurrently with its development in MAT 126. Three lecture hours, one recitation hour, and two laboratory hours per week. Not for credit in addition to PHY 122/124, 132/134, or 142.
Prerequisite: PHY 125 or 131/133 or 141
Corequisite: MAT 126 or 132 or 142 or AMS 161 or level 7 or higher on the math placement exam
5 credits

PHY 131-E Classical Physics I
First part of a two-semester physics sequence for physical-sciences or engineering majors who have a strong mathematics background and are ready for a fast learning pace. It covers mechanics, wave motion, kinetic theory, and thermodynamics. Calculus is used concurrently with its development in MAT 131. Three lecture hours and one recitation hour per week. Laboratory component, PHY 133, must be taken concurrently; a common grade for both courses will be assigned. Not for credit in addition to PHY 121/123, 125, or 141.
Prerequisite: MAT 125 or level 5 on the mathematics placement examination
Corequisite: PHY 133; MAT 126 or 131 or 141 or AMS 151
3 credits

PHY 132-E Classical Physics II
Second part of a two-semester physics sequence for physical-sciences or engineering majors who have a strong mathematics background and are ready for a fast learning pace. It covers electromagnetism, electric circuit theory, and optics. Calculus is used concurrently with its development in MAT 132. Three lecture hours and one recitation hour per week. Laboratory component, PHY 134, must be taken concurrently; a common grade for both courses will be assigned. Not for credit in addition to PHY 122/124, 126, 127, or 142.
Prerequisite: PHY 131/133 or 141
Corequisite: PHY 134; MAT 132 or 142 or 127 or AMS 161
3 credits

PHY 133 Classical Physics Laboratory I
Must be taken concurrently with Lecture component, PHY 131; a common grade for both courses will be assigned. Two hours of laboratory per week.
Corequisite: PHY 131
1 credit

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PHY 134 Classical Physics Laboratory II
Must be taken concurrently with Lecture component, PHY 132; a common grade for both courses will be assigned. 3 hours of laboratory per week. Corequisite: PHY 132
1 credit

PHY 141-E Classical Physics I: Honors
First part of a demanding two-semester sequence for students with the strongest background, interests, and abilities in science and mathematics. The topics covered in PHY 141 are similar to those in PHY 131 but are treated in more depth in a small-class setting. Students may transfer to PHY 131 at any time during the first half of each semester without penalty. Three lecture hours, one recitation hour, and one two-hour laboratory per week. PHY 141 may not be taken for credit in addition to PHY 121/123, 125, or 131. Prerequisite: Level 6 on the Math Placement Exam, or B or higher in MAT 131 or 141 or AMS 151, or B+ or higher in MAT 125, or permission of instructor (priority given to students in Honors or WISE programs) Corequisite: PHY 131 at 141 or 126 or AMS 151
3 credits

PHY 142-E Classical Physics II: Honors
Second part of a demanding two-semester sequence for students with the strongest background, interests, and abilities in science and mathematics. The topics covered in PHY 142 are similar to those in PHY 132, but are treated in more depth in a small-class setting. Students may transfer to PHY 132 at any time during the first half of each semester without penalty. Three lecture hours, one recitation hour, and one two-hour laboratory per week. PHY 142 may not be taken for credit in addition to PHY 122/124, 126, 127, or 132. Prerequisite: PHY 141 or permission of department Corequisite: PHY 132 at 142 or 127 or AMS 161
3 credits

PHY 191 Transitional Study
Laboratory for transfer students to supplement courses taken at another institution. Students take the laboratory portion of a 100-level course for which they have taken the theoretical portion elsewhere. Prerequisite: Permission of department
1 credit

PHY 192 Transitional Study
Laboratory for transfer students to supplement courses taken at another institution. Students take the laboratory portion of a 100-level course for which they have taken the theoretical portion elsewhere. Prerequisite: Permission of department
1 credit

PHY 200 Physics Today
Seminar introducing students to the excitement of current topics in physics research. Students are introduced to researchers from the University and Brookhaven National Laboratory who are conducting research at the forefront of a variety of subfields of physics. Literature search and presentation skills are developed. The course is intended for physics majors but is open to any student who has completed the first-year physics sequence. Prerequisite: PHY 126/127 or 132 or 142
1 credit

PHY 237-H Current Topics in World Climate and Atmosphere
An exploration of current concerns about the greenhouse effect, acid rain, and global ozone loss, in a format accessible to non-science majors. The social and political steps being taken to limit global atmospheric pollution and climate change are discussed. Not for major credit. This course is offered as both ATM 237 and PHY 237. Prerequisites: One D.E.C. category E course; satisfaction of entry skill in mathematics requirement
3 credits

PHY 251 Modern Physics
A survey of the major physics theories of the 20th century (relativity and quantum mechanics) and their impact on most areas of physics. It introduces the special theory of relativity, the concepts of quantum and wave-particle duality, Schrödinger’s wavefunction equation, and other fundamentals of quantum theory as they apply to nuclei, atoms, molecules, and solids. Three lecture hours and one recitation hour per week. Prerequisite: PHY 122 or 126 or 127 or 132/134 or 142 Pre- or Corequisite: MAT 203 or 205 or AMS 261; Corequisite for physics majors: PHY 252
3 credits

PHY 252 Modern Physics Laboratory
Open to all students taking PHY 251 and required for physics majors. Students perform some of the pivotal experiments of the 20th century. Must be taken concurrently with lecture component PHY 251; a common grade for both courses will be assigned. Three hours of laboratory per week. Corequisite: PHY 251
1 credit

PHY 277 Computing for Physics and Astronomy Majors
An introduction to computing on UNIX/Linux computers. Fundamentals of using UNIX/Linux to write computer programs for numerical algorithms to solve computational physics and astronomy problems. Assignments are carried out in a high-level compiler programming language such as Fortran 90 or C++ and require extensive use of SINC site computers outside the classroom. This course is offered as both AST 277 and PHY 277. Prerequisite: AMS 151 or MAT 126 or 131 or 141 Advisory Prerequisite: AMS 161 or MAT 127 or 132 or 142
1 credit

PHY 287 Introduction to Research
An opportunity for students, while still early in their studies, to do research commensurate with their level of preparation. Students work alongside faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students on ongoing research projects. May be repeated up to a total of three credits. Prerequisite: Permission of department
0-3 credits

PHY 291 Transitional Study
A laboratory for transfer students to supplement a course taken at another institution. Students take the laboratory portion of a 200-level course for which they have taken the theoretical portion elsewhere. Prerequisite: Permission of department
1 credit

PHY 300 Waves and Optics
The physics of oscillations and waves, from mechanical waves to light waves to electron waves. Topics include resonance and normal modes of coupled oscillators, the wave equation and wave propagation, interference and diffraction, polarization and imaging, coherence, and lasers. Three lecture hours and one three-hour laboratory per week. Prerequisite: PHY 132/134 or 142 or 126/127 Corequisite: PHY 200 or 205 or AMS 261
3 credits

PHY 301 Electromagnetic Theory I
The application of Maxwell’s equations to solve time-independent boundary-value problems and to study the interactions of electric and magnetic fields with bulk matter. Prerequisite: PHY 251 or permission of department Advisory Corequisite: MAT 341
3 credits

PHY 302 Electromagnetic Theory II
A study of time-dependent electric and magnetic fields as derived from Maxwell’s equations. Topics include the interrelations of electric and magnetic fields and their potentials; energy and momentum associated with electromagnetic fields and the Maxwell vacuum and matter; waveguides and transmission lines; special relativity for electromagnetic retarded potentials for time-varying sources; and radiation of electromagnetic waves. Prerequisite: PHY 301
3 credits

PHY 303 Mechanics
An in-depth study of classical mechanics, from the Newtonian to the Lagrangian and Hamiltonian formulations. First, Newtonian mechanics is reviewed and applied to more advanced problems than those considered in PHY 131 or 141. The Lagrangian and Hamiltonian formulations are then developed from the Newtonian treatment and applied to various problems. Prerequisite: PHY 251 or permission of department; MAT 363 or 365 or AMS 361
3 credits

PHY 306 Thermodynamics, Kinetic Theory, and Statistical Mechanics
A study of the laws that govern physical systems in thermal equilibrium. In the first part, the concepts of temperature, internal energy, and entropy are analyzed and the first and second laws of thermodynamics are used to connect various properties that are independent of the microscopic details of the system. The second part is devoted to a microscopic study of a system in thermal equilibrium, from the kinetic theory of gases to statistical mechanics and the relation between entropy and probability, with application to simple examples in classical and quantum statistics. Prerequisites: PHY 251 and PHY 300
3 credits

PHY 308 Quantum Physics
The concepts, historical development, and mathematical methods of quantum mechanics. Topics include Schrödinger’s equation in time-dependent and time-independent forms; one- and three-dimensional solutions, including the treatment of angular momentum and spin. Applications to simple systems, especially the hydrogen atom, are stressed. Prerequisite: PHY 300, 301, and 303
3 credits

PHY 310 Probability and Statistics for Experimental Physics
Statistical techniques used for data analysis in experimental physics, including standard analytic techniques and modern computational extensions such as random number generation, Monte Carlo methods and ensemble tests. The probability theory basis underlying all methods is studied. Prerequisites: PHY 277 or MAT 332; PHY 303
3 credits

PHY 311 Connections in Science
A selection of the interrelations between physics and other scientific and technological fields, using modern examples from engineering, medicine, and applied mathematics, among others. The course is taught as a seminar and includes guest lecturers, tours of laboratories, and discussion of classic and current research projects. Appropriate for physics and non-physics majors alike. Prerequisite: PHY 122/124 or 127 or 132/134 or 142
1 credit

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PHY 313-H Mystery of Matter
Exploration of our understanding of the basic constituents of matter, and of how that understanding and the tools developed to study them affect aspects of contemporary society. Historical discoveries and their place in social and political institutions of the time are considered, along with issues of government funding and the cost to society. Includes a discussion of developments at Brookhaven National Laboratory and their scientific and social impact.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; one D.E.C. category E course
3 credits

PHY 335 Electronics and Instrumentation Laboratory
An intensive laboratory-based course covering modern electronic circuits and the theory behind them. Topics include AC circuits, digital techniques, and computer interfacing involving both interface hardware and programming in a high-level language such as BASIC or Pascal. Two three-hour laboratories per week.
Prerequisite: PHY 251
3 credits

PHY 390 Special Topics in Physics
Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated for credit once as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: Permission of department
3 credits

PHY 403 Nonlinear Dynamics
One-dimensional dynamical systems with an emphasis on the development of perturbative sections that are valid for long periods of time. An introduction to bifurcations and chaos is included through a study of the logistic map and Lorenz equations.
Prerequisite: PHY 305
3 credits

PHY 405 Advanced Quantum Physics
Study of quantitative methods of quantum mechanics, including perturbation theory and the WKB approximation, scattering theory, and elements of quantum information theory. Symmetry principles are stressed and advanced mathematical techniques are used throughout the course.
Prerequisites: PHY 303 and 308; MAT 341
3 credits

PHY 407 Physics of Continuous Media
An introduction to the dynamic properties of fluids, of special interest to those attracted to astrophysics, geophysics, and plasma physics. Topics covered include compressible fluids, viscosity, and irrotational flow; conducting fluids; wave motion in gases; and magnetohydrodynamic waves.
Prerequisites: PHY 303 and 306
3 credits

PHY 408 Relativity
A development of the special theory of relativity leading to general relativity with applications to cosmology.
Prerequisites: PHY 302 and 303
3 credits

PHY 431 Nuclear and Particle Physics
An introduction to the physics of the nucleus and elementary particles, stressing their quantum-mechanical properties and the role of symmetry principles. Topics include nuclear structure, nuclear reactions, nuclear forces, the interaction of radiation with matter, radiation detectors, accelerators, and the properties of elementary particles and resonances.
Prerequisite: PHY 308
3 credits

PHY 445 Senior Laboratory
A selection of historically important experiments from atomic and nuclear spectroscopy, particle physics, solid-state and low-temperature physics, and astronomy performed with modern instrumentation. Each student does three experiments, usually with a partner. As students progress, they are encouraged to pursue independent projects, without rigid formats or procedures. The emphasis is on the development of experimental skills and on professionally acceptable analysis and presentation of results, both orally and in writing. Two three-hour laboratory sessions per week.
Prerequisites: PHY 308 and 335
3 credits

PHY 447 Tutorial in Advanced Topics
Selected readings in advanced topics for upper-division students of unusual ability and substantial accomplishments. Prior to the beginning of the semester, the topic to be studied is selected by the supervising member of the faculty and a reading assignment is planned. Weekly conferences with this faculty member are devoted to discussion of material, resolution of problems encountered, and assessment of the student’s progress. May be repeated up to a total of six credits.
Prerequisite: Permission of the department
1-6 credits

PHY 452 Lasers
Introduction to the theory of lasers using elementary quantum mechanics. It includes a study of resonance conditions, normal modes, and optical cavities; a description of the various types of lasers, their methods of control and their limitations; and an introduction to their applications to research, medicine, communication, and computing.
Prerequisites: PHY 251 and 300
3 credits

PHY 472 Solid-State Physics
A study of the different types of solids, with emphasis on their thermal, electrical, and optical properties. It introduces the concepts of phonons and electronic bands, and applications to metals, semiconductors, superconductors, and magnetism.
Prerequisites: PHY 306 and 308
3 credits

PHY 475 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum
An opportunity for selected undergraduates to collaborate with the faculty in teaching at the introductory level. In addition to working as tutors and as laboratory assistants, students meet once a week with a faculty supervisor to discuss problems they have encountered and to plan future activities. Students are generally assigned to assist in courses they have completed and in which they have excelled. Not for major credit and not repeatable.
Prerequisite: Permission of department
3 credits, S/U grading

PHY 487 Research
An opportunity for students to conduct faculty-supervised research for academic credit. Research proposals must be prepared by the student and submitted for approval by the supervising faculty before the beginning of the credit period. An account of the work and the results achieved is submitted to the supervisor before the end of the credit period. May be repeated, up to a total of six credits.
Prerequisite: Permission of department
0-6 credits

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