

PHYSICS 113 – GENERAL PHYSICS I – FALL 2007

Welcome to Physics 113, General Physics I. This is the first part of a two-semester, calculus based physics survey course. Topics include:

- Mechanics
- Waves
- Thermodynamics

An understanding of basic calculus is assumed.

In this class, I hope to show how many everyday physical phenomena can be explained by a relatively small number of fundamental concepts, and by guiding you in the scientific method, encourage analytical and logical reasoning. To that end, I will try to make the class as interactive as possible by posing concept questions and conducting demos and discussions.

The class will consist of lectures, labs, daily homework and reading assignments and tests.

Lectures and Text

Lectures will be held Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30 – 10:45 AM, in Olin 101. The first meeting will be on Thursday, August 30 at 9:30 AM in Olin 101.

Attendance is not mandatory but strongly encouraged.

Text is Physics for Scientists and Engineers, 6th ed., vol. 1, by Serway and Jewett, Thomson Publishing

Lecture notes and a class schedule will be posted online at: <http://www.wfu.edu/~ucerkb/Phy113.html>. The web site also has general class information and links to other useful web sites.

Homework

Daily homework assignments will be given and graded online using WebAssign. You can login through www.webassign.net using:

- User name: Your Wake Forest username
- Institution: wfu
- Password: Your WFU student ID number (please change after initial login).

Your user license is included in the purchase of a new textbook from the bookstore. If not, licenses can be purchased from the bookstore or from the WebAssign web site.

Do not be discouraged if some of the homework questions seem hard or complicated. They are meant to be like that to show all levels of a concept. I encourage group work and collaboration (but not outright copying) and you are welcome to ask me any questions you might have.

In addition to the homework assignments, you are expected to read the next day's chapter and come to class with at least some familiarity with the day's subject matter.

Tutorials and Office Hours

Regularly scheduled tutorial sessions will be announced to provide an opportunity for discussing homework problems and concepts.

I will hold regular office hours Tuesday - Thursday, 1:30 – 3:00 PM (Olin 305D). These are only the times I will definitely be in my office but you are welcome to stop by any other time I am available.

Laboratory

Labs start Monday, September 3. You will be working in small groups of two or three people and will be expected to write a summary report at the end of each lab. Laboratory attendance is mandatory. Please contact Eric Chapman (chapmaek@wfu.edu) to sign up for a section.

Tests and Grading

There will be three midterm tests and a final exam. I will also have a review session the Saturday before each midterm. The final will be held on Saturday, December 15 at 9 AM.

Your final grade will be calculated using the following weighting:

- 3 midterms: %15 each
- Homework Assignment average: %10
- Laboratory average: %15
- Final: %30