

PHYS 4101

Theoretical Mechanics I

Course Syllabus and Schedule for Fall 2009

****This syllabus is a general plan for the course;
deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.****

Instructor: Dr. Chad Fertig

Office: Physics 211

Phone: 706-542-4007

E-mail: cfertig@uga.edu

eCommons Course

Times and Locations

Class: T-Th (11:00 AM -12:15 PM), Physics Bldg., Room 327

Office Hours: M 12:00-3:00 and by appointment.

Textbook

Classical Mechanics, John R. Taylor, University Science Books, 2005.

Homework

Homework sets (approximately one per chapter) are due in class on Tuesday as indicated on the schedule. Late homework will be penalized by 15% each day late. Your lowest score will be dropped from your final homework average. No other allowances will be made for late or missed homework. Your homework average constitutes 20% of your course grade. Homework study groups are strongly encouraged, but you must hand in your own work. Plagiarism is forbidden by the Academic Honesty Policy of UGA and will be dealt with accordingly. (Additionally, as solving problems will be your principal method of preparing for exams, you do yourself no favor by copying someone else's work.) Each problem set will include a computer problem, which you must complete using Mathematica. Mathematica is available on certain machines in the computer room. You may also purchase a student version of mathematica at the UGA bookstore. Upload your solutions to eCommons -- details to be provided.

Exams

There will be two take-home midterm exams and a final exam. If you can document a serious illness during the exam period, you may be administered a make-up exam (timed, not take-home). All exam scores are weighted equally, and together constitute 80% of your course grade.

Rules concerning withdrawals and incompletes

We will follow the rules published in the UGA Bulletin concerning withdrawals and incompletes.

Course Grade

Your course grade is the weighted average of your homework and exam scores:

$$\text{grade} = 0.200 \text{ Homework} + 0.267 \text{ Midterm}_1 + 0.267 \text{ Midterm}_2 + 0.267 \text{ Final_Exam}$$

The letter assignment points thresholds are shown below. Standard rounding practices will be used. Factors such as improvement, effort, and class participation may help borderline grades.

94.00 = A 90.00 = A- 87.00 = B+ 84.00 = B 80.00 = B-
74.00 = C 70.00 = C- 64.00 = D

6101/4101H Policy

Students enrolled in 6101 or 4101H will be given "honors problems" and/or "honors projects." Honors problems will appear with the weekly homework assignment and are due at the same time as the normal assignments unless otherwise specified. Honors projects will be assigned separately and will be of longer duration. Grades for honors problems and projects will be recorded separately, and will be used to adjust your overall semester grade. If your work on the honors problems is excellent (> 90%), then your overall grade will be increased by *up to* one-half letter grade. If your work is satisfactory (70-90%), your semester grade will be unchanged. If you do unsatisfactory work, but at least attempt all the honors problems, your semester grade will be reduced by *up to* one-half letter grade. Failure to attempt the honors problems will result in a full letter grade reduction.

To be clear, only those students registered for 6101 or 4101-Honors are required to complete homework problems designated "honors". If you are registered for "regular" 4101, you are not required to complete the honors problems, and you will not receive extra credit if you complete them.

Academic Honesty

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. More detailed information about academic honesty can be found at the website given above. As a UGA student, you are responsible for knowing and understanding this policy. If you have any questions about the propriety of actions relating to this course, you are obligated to ask me for clarification. See also the UGA website:

<http://www.uga.edu/honesty/>

Schedule, Rev A. Check eCommons for the authoritative version.

4101						
	Date	Chapter	Assignments	Date	Chapter	Assignments
Week	T			Th		
1	18-Aug	1		20-Aug	1	
2	25-Aug	2	HW1 due	27-Aug	2	
3	1-Sep	2		3-Sep	3	
4	8-Sep	3	HW2 due	10-Sep	4	
5	15-Sep	4	HW3 due	17-Sep	4	
6	22-Sep	5	HW4 due	24-Sep	5	
7	29-Sep	5	Get MT1 (Ch 1-4)	1-Oct	6	Turn in MT1
8	6-Oct	6	HW5 due	8-Oct	7	
9	13-Oct	7	HW6 due	15-Oct	7	
10	20-Oct	7		22-Oct	8	
11	27-Oct	8	HW7 due	29-Oct	9	
12	3-Nov	9	HW8 due, Get MT2 (Ch 5-7)	5-Nov	9	Turn in MT2
13	10-Nov	10	HW9 due	12-Nov	10	
14	17-Nov	10		19-Nov	10	
15	24-Nov			26-Nov		
16	1-Dec	11	HW10 due	3-Dec	11	
	11-Dec		Final Exam Noon-3PM (Ch 8-11)			