

Syllabus

Title	University Physics I Laboratory
Number	PHYS 2125-2L2
Time	T 5:30–8:00
Place	BVC 220
Instructor	David Milovich
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Phone	(956) 326-2570
Office	BVC 321
Hours	MTWR 11:00–11:45, 1:45-2:30
Department	Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics
College	Arts and Sciences
Institution	Texas A&M International University
Term	Spring 2013

Course description. Laboratory course to accompany PHYS 2325. Laboratory exercises reinforce PHYS 2325 lecture material and place importance on scientific communication & collaboration as well as measurement methods, uncertainty and basic error analysis. Must be taken concurrently with PHYS 2325. Lab fee: \$27.25.

Student learning outcomes. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- explain why experiments are an important component of the scientific method;
- explain why uncertainty is present in all measurements;
- collect experimental data to compare with theoretical predictions;
- plot data to show relationships between variables in graphical form;
- interpret data from tables and graphs.

In-class expectations. You will conduct experiments in groups, always using laboratory equipment safely. Groups are to be large enough to perform the experiment, but small enough for everyone in the group to contribute significantly. In particular, everyone should get a turn using the equipment.

Laboratory reports. After each Tuesday night experiment, each student will prepare his/her own laboratory report and submit it through ANGEL no later than the following Monday at 11:59PM (spring break excepted). **Do not include names** in your report. Since you will submit through ANGEL, it will keep track of who submitted what.

Peer grading The Friday after a lab report is due, I will randomly assign you 3 lab reports from the Thursday lab section for you to grade according to a rubric. Those you grade will not know who graded them. Submit your grades to ANGEL no later than 11:59PM the following Friday. If you do not complete your grading on time or I discover that your grading is extremely inaccurate, then you will not get credit for peer grading for that experiment.

Conversely, your lab report grade will be the average of 3 grades given to you by 3 randomly chosen students from the Thursday lab section using the same rubric. You will not know who graded you. (Exception: For scheduling reasons, I will grade the last experiment's lab reports.) Talk to me **within one week** if you have concerns about a grade you received. If I agree that a grade is extremely unfair, I will ignore in computing your average grade.

Attendance. All experiments must be performed as scheduled, unless you have a good excuse for missing an experiment, in which case I will let you make it up on Apr 30 and grade your report for the make-up

experiment if you submit it no later than 11:59 PM, May 6. Note that you are only allowed to make up one excused absence, so try for perfect attendance in case something unexpected makes you miss an experiment.

Final Exam The written final exam will test your knowledge of physical theory, error analysis, and laboratory procedure relevant to this course. For the final exam, you may bring one sheet of notes (double-sided) and a calculator, but no phones or books.

Grading. 60% lab reports; 20% peer grading; 20% final exam.

letter	minimum score requirement
A	90% score OR in top 10% of scores
B	80% score OR in top 30% of scores
C	70% score OR in top 70% of scores
D	60% score OR in top 90% of scores
F	

What to bring. Always bring paper, pencil, and a scientific calculator.

Tentative Schedule of Experiments

Month	Date	Title	report due	peer grading due
Jan	22	Propogation of error	Jan 28	Feb 8
Jan	29	Linear regression	Feb 4	Feb 15
Feb	5	Balistic motion	Feb 11	Feb 22
Feb	12	Vector addition of forces	Feb 18	Mar 1
Feb	19	Atwood machine	Feb 25	Mar 8
Feb	26	Friction	Mar 4	Mar 22
Mar	5	Centripetal force	Mar 18	Mar 29
Mar	19	Work and energy	Mar 25	Apr 5
Mar	26	Moment of inertia	Apr 1	Apr 12
Apr	2	Torque and equilibrium	Apr 8	Apr 19
Apr	9	Hooke's law and harmonic motion	Apr 15	Apr 26
Apr	16	Simple pendulum	Apr 22	May 3
Apr	23	Archimedes' principle	Apr 29	
Apr	30	Make-up day	May 6	
May	7	Final Exam		

Policies of the College of Arts and Sciences

(Required on all COAS Syllabi)

Classroom Behavior

The College of Arts and Sciences encourages classroom discussion and academic debate as an essential intellectual activity. It is essential that students learn to express and defend their beliefs, but it is also essential that they learn to listen and respond respectfully to others whose beliefs they may not share. The College will always tolerate diverse, unorthodox, and unpopular points of view, but it will not tolerate condescending or insulting remarks. When students verbally abuse or ridicule and intimidate others whose views they do not agree with, they subvert the free exchange of ideas that should characterize a university classroom. If their actions are deemed by the professor to be disruptive, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include being involuntarily withdrawn from the class.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. **1)** When you borrow someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words, you must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism. **2)** When you also borrow someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism. **3)** When you present someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own, you have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2010, sixth edition of the *Manual of The American Psychological Association* (APA):

Plagiarism: Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. *Each* time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text.

The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the Discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications. (pp. 15-16)

Consult the Writing Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the *Manual of the APA* or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* for guidance on proper documentation. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

Use of Work in Two or More Courses: You may not submit work completed in one course for a grade in a second course unless you receive explicit permission to do so by the instructor of the second course.

Penalties for Plagiarism: Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a "zero" for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of "F" (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse.

Caution: Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that "it was only a draft" will not be accepted.

Caution: Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.

Penalties for Cheating: Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a "zero" for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an "F" in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an "F" in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a "W."

Student Right of Appeal: Faculty will notify students immediately via the student's TAMIU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member's charge of academic

dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 5 business days of the faculty member's e-mail message to the student. The *Student Handbook* provides details

UConnect, TAMIU E-Mail, and Dusty Alert

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMIU's UConnect Portal and TAMIU E-mail are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty – not the U.S. Mail and not other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check UConnect and their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or UConnect message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to sign-up for *Dusty Alert* (see www.tamtu.edu). *Dusty Alert* is an instant cell phone text-messaging system allowing the university to communicate immediately with you if there is an on-campus emergency, something of immediate danger to you, or a campus closing.

Copyright Restrictions

The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to \$100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment.

Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

Incompletes

Students who are unable to complete a course should withdraw from the course before the final date for withdrawal and receive a "W." To qualify for an "incomplete" and thus have the opportunity to complete the course at a later date, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must have completed 90% of the course work assigned before the final date for withdrawing from a course with a "W", and the student must be passing the course;
2. The student cannot complete the course because an accident, an illness, or a traumatic personal or family event occurred after the final date for withdrawal from a course;
3. The student must sign an "Incomplete Grade Contract" and secure signatures of approval from the professor and the college dean.
4. The student must agree to complete the missing course work before the end of the next long semester; failure to meet this deadline will cause the "I" to automatically be converted to a "F"; extensions to this deadline may be granted by the dean of the college.

This is the general policy regarding the circumstances under which an "incomplete" may be granted, but under exceptional circumstances, a student may receive an incomplete who does not meet all of the criteria above if the faculty member, department chair, and dean recommend it.

Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course

It is the responsibility of the STUDENT to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course without getting the approval of their department chair and dean.

Independent Study Course

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

Grade Changes & Appeals

Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error or an error in recording a grade, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the *Student Handbook* and the *Faculty Handbook*.

Final Examination

Final Examination must be comprehensive and must contain a written component. The written component should comprise at least 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.