

# Syllabus

Title	University Physics II Laboratory
Number	PHYS 2126-1L2
Time	M 5:30–8:00
Place	BVC 220
Instructor	David Milovich
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Office	BVC 321
Hours	TBA
Department	Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics
College	Arts and Sciences
Institution	Texas A&M International University
Term	Fall 2013

**Course description.** Laboratory course to accompany PHYS 2326. Laboratory exercises reinforce PHYS 2326 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 2326. Lab fee: \$30.00.

**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;
- Interpret data from tables and graphs;
- prepare a physics laboratory report in proper format.

## **In-class expectations.**

- Always bring paper, pencil, your PHYS 2326 textbook, and a scientific calculator.
- 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.
- Speak quietly with your teammates and avoid excessive conversation about non-lab topics. Because this room's acoustics (hard floors), it becomes hard to hear and hard to concentrate if everyone is chattering at once.

## **Laboratory reports.**

- After each Monday night experiment, each student will prepare his/her own laboratory report and submit it through ANGEL no later than the following Saturday at 11:59PM. (The midsemester and Thanksgiving breaks are exceptions to this. See the schedule page.)
- Include in your report your name and the names of those who helped you in the lab.

## **Peer grading**

- After a lab report is due, I will randomly assign you 3 lab reports to grade according to the rubric I provide.
- Submit your grades to ANGEL no later than 11:59PM the following Friday. (Exceptions for holiday weekends are shown in the schedule page.) I will email you your grading assignments such that you always have at least 96 hours to complete your peer grading.
- 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.
- For each experiment, 4 reports will not be peer graded; I will randomly choose 4 reports to grade according to the same rubric.
- Your lab report grade will either be my grade or the average of the grades given to you by randomly chosen classmates.
- You will know whom you are grading, but you will not know who graded you unless they want to tell you.
- 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 it in computing your average grade.

**Attendance.**

- Arrive on time. If chronic lateness becomes a problem, I will start taking attendance and deduct points for lateness.
- You may not turn in a report about an experiment you did not participate in. Do not leave until your group has completed the experiment. If you find yourself bored waiting, try to help your group finish faster, or get an early start on the data analysis.

**Make-ups.**

- On Nov. 25, you may repeat one experiment; the report will be due Nov. 30; I will grade it. You may repeat an experiment for any reason: you missed the original experiment, you missed the original report deadline, or you don't like your original report grade.
- If one of your peer-grading assignments is late or not completed, I will not count it against your grade. If you miss more, I will.
- Other than the above, there are no make-ups for missed or late work, except by situations covered by university rules.

**Final Exam** The written final exam will test your knowledge of physical theory, error analysis, and laboratory procedure relevant to this course. The final exam is open-book and open-note. Bring a calculator

**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	

## Tentative Schedule of Experiments

Experiment	Topic	Date	Report due	Peer grading due
1	Electric potential	2-Sep	7-Sep	13-Sep
2	Ohm's Law	9-Sep	14-Sep	20-Sep
3	Resistivity	16-Sep	21-Sep	27-Sep
4	Resistors in series/parallel	23-Sep	28-Sep	4-Oct
5	Wheatstone bridge	30-Sep	5-Oct	11-Oct
6	Kirchhoff's Rules	7-Oct	12-Oct	23-Oct
7	RC Time Constant	14-Oct	22-Oct	25-Oct
8	Ampere's Law	21-Oct	26-Oct	1-Nov
9	Faraday's Law	28-Oct	2-Nov	8-Nov
10	L/R Time Constant	4-Nov	9-Nov	15-Nov
11	LRC circuits	11-Nov	16-Nov	22-Nov
12	refraction	18-Nov	23-Nov	3-Dec
	make-up	25-Nov	30-Nov	
	final exam	2-Dec		

# **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](http://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.