

Physics 1314

The Physical Perspective

Laboratory Organization

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PHYS 1314 lab commences promptly at either at 1:00 PM or 3:00 PM. **Late entrances, defined as more than 10 minutes after the start of lab period, disturb instruction and will earn the student a score of zero for the lab.**

There are **no make-up labs**. “You snooze, you lose.”

There will be a short lab quiz (typically one question) before every lab. The quiz will be based solely on the introductory material for the lab and not on the procedure. So, read the lab **before** you arrive. **There are no quiz make-ups.**

All lab write-ups are available at www.physics.smu.edu/~coan/1314_00.html as Microsoft Word documents. **You** are responsible for printing the lab write-up for each scheduled lab. **All lab write-ups must be typed** using the pre-formatted lab write-ups. Only algebraic equations, plots and sketches can be hand drawn.

Lab write-ups are due at my office no later than 12:00 noon of the Thursday following the lab. Manilla folders are attached to my office door. **No** late lab write-ups are accepted.

Lab write-ups are scored on the basis of your demonstrated understanding of **what** you were trying to measure and **why** you were trying to measure it. I am less interested in the actual accuracy of your results. By “demonstrated” understanding, I mean your ability to answer the questions in the lab write-up using standard American English. That means you need to pay attention to grammar, word choice, punctuation, spelling and even style. If you cannot clearly describe what you did, you did nothing.

The first part of the lab write-up is called the “abstract.” Here, all I want you to do is to tell me **what** you are trying to measure, **why** you are trying to measure it, and **how** you are trying to measure it. Normally, 3-4 well-crafted sentences suffice.

The lowest lab score and the lowest lab quiz are dropped before your final lab score is computed. Therefore, if you cut one lab and then miss another because of illness, say, you will not be excused work due to the illness.