

PHYS 1301 – Ideas of Modern Physics

General Policies

- The course web homepage is at http://www.physics.smu.edu/~sdalley/1301_S14/1301home.html where all relevant information will be posted.
- **Cell phones must be turned off and put away** at all times during lectures, laboratories, and exams.
- I will use your official SMU e-mail address to communicate with you regularly, so plan to check your account.
- For each lecture you are required to bring your own textbook.
- This course operates a policy of zero tolerance toward **Academic Dishonesty** in any form at any level. It will usually result in an F grade for the course and a filing with the Dean of Student Life.

Grading Policy

- Assignments 30%, Quizzes 10%, Two Essays 10% each, Final Multi-choice Exam 10%, Labs 30%.
- Lowest lab, lowest assignment, and lowest 2 quiz scores are dropped, including absence for any reason.

Grade Boundaries

A > 90% > A - > 85% > B+ > 80% > B > 75% > B- > 70% > C+ > 65% > C > 60% > D > 50% > F.

However, scoring less than **50 %** in labs alone, or scoring less than **50%** on assignments alone, will result in an **F** course grade.

QUIZZES

Short multiple choice quizzes are assigned for each lecture and may be found in the textbook. Tear out the quiz and attempt before the relevant lecture by lightly reading the textbook. Quiz questions handwritten during lecture are not accepted. Quizzes are due and answers will be given in the lecture.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment questions requiring extended response are due each week and must be turned in as **hardcopy** at the **beginning** of lecture on the due date to gain credit. Recommended total length is about one typed page for each assignment (more if hand-written). For each question on an assignment, the grading scheme for answers is

- 2.5 – comprehensive and correct in the opinion of the grader.
- 2 – mostly correct with some minor errors or omissions.
- 1 – some correct but major errors or omissions.
- 0 – Nothing correct or nothing relevant to the question asked.

ESSAYS

Two 50-minute in-class essays on a topic that you will be able to prepare for. Closed book and closed note.

FINAL EXAM

Closed book and closed note. 50 multiple choice questions covering all course topics. To help you prepare, you will be provided with the questions in advance (but not the options for answers!)

LABS

Each week there is a lab that illustrates the material covered in lectures. Before the relevant lab, you must read the lab manual and then type and print a short Abstract. This Abstract must be submitted as hardcopy upon entry to the lab; handwritten Abstracts are not accepted.

Disputes about the quality of grading will only be entertained if they are submitted in writing, in a timely manner, explaining why you think you are entitled to more points. If we accept your request, we will regrade **all** your answers. This implies that your score may go up or down.