

PHYS 1301 – Ideas of Modern Physics

GENERAL POLICIES

- The course homepage contains information you will need (links to assignments, labs, rubrics, etc.)

http://www.physics.smu.edu/~sdalley/1301_S15/1301home.htm

- I will use your official SMU e-mail address to communicate with you – please check it!
- **Academic Dishonesty** will usually result in a course F grade and filing with the Dean of Student Life.

Assessment

QUIZZES (10%)

You are expected to read relevant sections of the textbook **before class**. To help you focus on this, short multiple choice quizzes may be found in the textbook. Tear out the quiz and submit at the **beginning** of class for 10% of course credit.

Recommended Time Burden = 1 hour per class

ASSIGNMENTS (25%)

Assignments consisting of 3 questions requiring **hand-written** extended responses are due most weeks and must be turned in at the **beginning** of class on the due date to gain credit. Assignments are linked on the course website and due dates shown on the syllabus. For each question on an assignment, the grading scheme is

- 2 – Mostly correct, some minor errors, omissions, or irrelevant material
- 1 – some correct but major errors, omissions, or irrelevant material
- 0 – Nothing correct or nothing relevant to the question asked.

You may use your own words, use wording from the textbook without attribution, and use wording from other sources with attribution – the main thing is to show understanding by answering only the question asked.

Recommended Time Burden / Length = 1½ hours / 1 page per assignment

ESSAYS/TESTS (10+10%)

Your understanding will be formally assessed twice during a class (50 minutes, closed book and closed note). Each time you can choose to either 1) write an essay summarizing one of the textbook chapters or 2) take a simple mathematical test on self-study materials provided for relevant textbook chapters

Recommended Time Burden = 3 – 6 hours preparation per essay or test

FINAL EXAM (10%)

50 multiple choice questions (similar to the quizzes) covering all course topics. Closed book and closed note. To focus your preparation, the questions will be provided a week in advance (but not the options for answers!).

Recommended Time Burden = 3 – 6 hours preparation

LABS (35%)

Each Friday there is a lab that illustrates the material covered in class. To ensure you arrive at the lab prepared, you must read the lab manual and then submit a pre-lab at the start of the lab. The pre-lab consists of one-sentence answers to Why? What? and How?

Recommended Time Burden = ½ hour per pre-lab

Important: this course counts as a lab-based science pillar for the University Curriculum. If your average lab score is below **60 %**, your final grade will be determined by your lab score alone (D or F). By their nature, missed labs cannot be made up!

Additional information about labs:

- Labs are performed in (random) pairs. Your partner will be unable to start until you arrive, so it is very important that you arrive **promptly** for labs at the time and day of your section, either 1pm or 3pm.
- The syllabus shows which lab is on which date. Labs are in rm 060 of Fondren Science.
- All lab manuals and help pages are available via the course website. There is no need to print anything out.
- Each lab is graded out of 10 (1.5 for the pre-lab, 8.5 for the report you write during the lab itself).

Grading

Fixed Grade Boundaries

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

- Weighting of different components: Labs 35%, Assignments 25%, Quizzes 10%, Two Essays or Tests 10% each, Final Exam 10%.
- Lowest lab, lowest assignment, and lowest 2 quiz scores are dropped, including absence for any reason.
- Averaging less than **60 %** in labs alone will result in your course score being your lab score.