

PHYS 1301 – Ideas of Modern Physics

LABORATORY ORGANIZATION -- Spring 2009

PHYS 1301 lab commences promptly at the time you signed up for on Fridays in room 060 of Fondren Science. Late entrances more than 10 minutes without good reason will earn the student zero score for that lab.

Lab manuals contain introductory material and procedures for the experiment or simulation and are available at <http://www.physics.smu.edu/~sdalley/1301/1301home.html>

You are responsible for printing and reading the lab manual and writing an abstract **before** each scheduled lab. To encourage due diligence, there will be a short quiz before every lab, based on the introductory material in the manual for that lab (not on the lab procedure). You will run out of time in the lab if you do not familiarize yourself with it ahead of time.

Except for any diagrams or graphs, which may be done in pencil, lab write-ups should be done in **ink**. Your write-up should follow the standard format starting at the Abstract page in the lab manual. Be neat - you will get credit for clarity - if you make a mistake, put a line through it and rewrite. Lab write-ups are due by the end of the lab session, without exception. Do not hand in the introductory material of the manual, keep it to put with your graded write-up later.

Lab write-ups are generally scored on your understanding of **what** you were trying to measure or simulate and **why**. The accuracy of your lab results is less important (but not unimportant). You must pay careful attention to your grammar, word choice, punctuation, and spelling in order to earn credit. A lab write-up guide is provided with the first lab manual.

Each lab is graded out of 10 (2 for quiz, 8 for write-up). The lowest lab score during the semester, including those scoring zero due to absence for any reason, are dropped before your final total lab score is computed. This total counts 25% towards your final course grade. **However**, an average score of less than 5 out of 10 in the labs will automatically result in an F grade for the course as a whole – this course is supposed to satisfy a GEC laboratory requirement, so skipping labs defeats that purpose. Skipping even a handful of labs will make it difficult for you to achieve this score – you have been warned!