

Course Policy

Welcome to Physics 2A!

Physics 2A is a survey class where we will cover multiple topics including mechanics, hydrostatics, and thermodynamics. Math 21 is a prerequisite for this class and you will often use trigonometry to solve homework and exam problems.

Contact Information

When using e-mail, include "2004-05 Phy 2A" in the subject line.

Brooke Haag, Adjunct Instructor

e-mail: brooke.haag@gmail.com
office hours: (tentative) TBD
location: room 625

Lectures are TTH 1:00-2:15 pm in room 625. It is important that you attend every lecture. Any student who has more than three absences may be dropped from the class. The text we will use is College Physics 5th edition, by Wilson and Buffa. There is one in the library, but it is highly advisable that you get the book as soon as possible, as homework will be assigned from the book and you will be expected to read each chapter.

Learning Resources

- There is a Student Study Guide and Solutions Manual to accompany your text (College Physics 5th edition by Wilson and Buffa). It is not required for the course, but you are welcome to purchase it on your own. I would suggest looking online at one of the cheap textbook sites.
- Course binder—you are responsible for organizing the sizable amount of notes and lab materials in the manner that is efficient for your studying.

Course Expectations and Grading

The responsibility for learning is yours. If you participate fully in lecture and in lab, and complete the assigned work, you should do well.

One general guideline: ***please turn off all cellphones before class begins!!!*** If your phone goes off in class, you will bring a snack for the class during the next class meeting.

Your course letter grade in Physics 2A is calculated through the following scheme:

Homework	10%
Quizzes	5%
Tests (3 @ 20%)	60%
Final Exam	25%

The scale for determining letter grades from grade points is given below. *There is no curve for this class*; your performance is strictly determined relative to this scale.

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
60 and below	F

Homework

There will be periodic assignments over the course of the semester (approximately 5-10 problems each) graded on a three-tier scale:

(10 points) → Exceptional effort, all problems were correct or nearly correct

(8 points) → Good effort, all problems were attempted and mostly correct

(6 – 0 points) → Poor effort, some problems attempted, some left blank

Any homework that is not turned in will get zero points. I will drop one homework (your lowest) at the end of the semester. *No late homework will be accepted.*

Quizzes

There will be a quiz most Thursdays. It will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Quizzes are closed-book and closed-notes.

Each quiz is 15 minutes long, given at the beginning of the lecture. If you show up late to lecture on a quiz day, you will only have the remaining time to take the quiz.

There will be no makeup quizzes, but I will drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester.

Calculators are allowed for the quizzes; make sure you have a scientific calculator available (graphing calculators are not necessary). You will not be allowed to share calculators and there will not be extras to loan out.

Labs

Labs will meet TTH 2:30-3:45 pm in room 625. During much of a lab meeting you will be working in a small group of students. In your group you will design and perform experiments to explore physics concepts, discuss the results of these experiments with the class as a whole, and work within your small group and the whole class to gain an understanding of how these concepts can be applied to a wide range of real-world problems and situations. *You are expected to participate in both your small group and whole class lab discussions, activities, and experiments, and to have completed any and all laboratory assignments.*

The laboratory is an important part of this course. Attendance in lab is mandatory. If for any reason should you miss a lab, please note that any student who has more than 2 absences may be dropped from the class. An absence also includes (but is not limited to) attendance with chronic tardiness, leaving early, lack of active participation, not turning in lab reports and disruptive behavior.

An excused absence involves illness, official college activities, or other legitimate excuses. An excused absence usually will require a note and immediate (if not prior) notification. (If you want to notify me, the best way is e-mail. Do not call the college.)

Lab grades will be determined as a function of participation and completed lab reports. (guidelines for lab reports will be covered in a separate handout)

- Closed-toe shoes are required in the lab.
- Appropriate attire in general is strongly encouraged.
- Consumption of food or drink is forbidden in the lab.
- You may not apply cosmetics of any kind in the lab.

Exams

There will be 3 exams given during the semester. They will consist of word problems much like the assigned homework problems.

If you miss an exam:

- I will not necessarily "replace" a missing exam grade with a score other than zero.
- Depending on the circumstances of the absence, a missing exam grade may be "replaced" in accordance with your average performance, as compared relative to the class mean on the missing exam.
- *There will be no makeup exams.*

Academic Misconduct

Cheating of any form is always immediately reported for appropriate action. As such, please refrain from the temptations and opportunities of academic misconduct. This includes but is not limited to copying of homework, lab assignments, tests, and quizzes.

Code of Conduct / Further Questions

In general, I will expect that you adhere to the regulations specified in the Student Code of Conduct. Also, for any further questions please refer to the Student Handbook as a guide.

Changes to Syllabus

I reserve the right to add reasonable amendments to the syllabus throughout the semester.