Guidelines for Physics 111

1. Welcome to Physics 111! (This course is also known as College Physics I.) We meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in room 106 Snygg from 9:35 - 10:55 a.m. Physics 111 and Physics 212 are designed as introductory courses that survey the field of physics for science majors and technically minded students who have been successful in high school level algebra and trigonometry. If you are not a science major, then you would probably be more comfortable in a course with less emphasis on mathematics, such as PHY 101.

2. Lab requirement: Please be certain that you have registered for a lab section to go with this course. You cannot pass this course without also passing the lab the goes with it.

3. Your Instructor: Mr. Kent Dristle, 312-2878, e-mail: dristle@oswego.edu, web site: www.oswego.edu/~dristle

4. Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:45-2:05 p.m., Room 122C (you have to go through room 122 first). If you have a class at this time then contact me and we will try to arrange another time to meet.

5. Textbook: We will be using the text, Physics, 7th edition, by Cutnell and Johnson. Physics 111 covers chapters 1-17. Physics 212 covers the remainder of the book. If you don’t need to take PHY 212, then you may want to buy just the volume 1 paperback edition of the book (which only covers the PHY 111 topics.).

6. Calculator: You should obtain a scientific calculator and bring it to class with you. Your calculator should be capable of doing the trig functions and scientific notation. Check with your lab instructor for any additional requirements.

7. Final Exam: The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

8. Grading:
   Attendance 5%
   Homework: 20%
   Quiz 1 10%  (All quizzes and tests are closed book, but equation sheets will be allowed.)
   Quiz 2 10%
   Quiz 3 10%
   Lab Grade 20%  (Your lab instructor will forward this grade to me.)
   Final Exam 25%

   You will receive a numerical grade (scale of 0-100) in each of these categories. At the end of the semester, your numerical average will be converted to a letter grade according to the following table:
   94-100 A 90-93 A– 87-89 B+ 83-86 B 80-82 B– 77-79 C+ 73-76 C

   To earn the maximum amount of credit on assignments, follow these rules:
   For all assigned problems, you must show your work. Answers alone are not good enough. This is true for homework assignments as well as for quizzes and exams. To adequately show your work you must write the equation(s) you are using, substitute correct numerical values in place of the equation’s variables (with correct units of measurement), and then solve for the correct answer (also with correct units.) Partial credit is allowed.
9. What I Expect From You: Read the text before class. Follow along and ask questions in class. Class attendance is part of your grade. There are no make-ups for quizzes unless you are seriously ill. Be prepared and bring what you need with you, i.e. your calculator. Homework is due the next class period. Late assignments are not accepted. I expect you to give it your best shot. Treat homework as a training exercise. It requires your active participation. The real value is not in obtaining answers; it is in learning how to obtain answers. Your goal should not be to get an “A” at all costs. Rather, try your best to internalize and understand the material so that it may actually be of some use to you at a later date.

To quote from the school’s academic dishonesty policy:

"Intellectual integrity on the part of all students is basic to individual growth and development through college course work. When academic dishonesty occurs, the teaching/learning climate is seriously undermined and student growth and development are impeded. For these reasons, any form of intellectual dishonesty is a serious concern and is therefore prohibited." For more information see: http://www.oswego.edu/administration/registrar/policy_text.html#cpii

10. What You Can Expect From Me: I will be available for help during office hours, and sometimes before class. You can also send an e-mail message. Check out the on-line resources available to you through your textbook publisher. I will provide you with equation sheets that you may use on all assignments including quizzes and the final exam. You still have to be responsible for knowing where and how to make use of the equations. You will also be allowed to use your calculator on exams. Even though I have many years of experience as a high school physics teacher, don’t expect me to treat you as a high school student. If you need help, then look at the examples in your textbook, ask me for help before or after class or during office hours, or go online at www.wiley.com/college/cutnell. I will give you an update after each quiz on your grade in the course so far. It will be up to you to decide if you’re happy with your progress, and if not, then to take the initiative to get some help.

11. If you have special needs:

The Office of Disability Services is available to assist students who have a legally documented disability or students who suspect that they may have a disability. If you have a disabling condition that may interfere with your ability to successfully complete this course, please contact the Office of Disability Services. (Alternative testing for students with learning disabilities is available through Disability Services.)

12. Mathematics: The quizzes and the final exam will consist of mathematical problems similar in nature to those assigned in homework and covered in class. Math is a very important part of physics. The kind of math you need to be most comfortable with is algebra. We use algebra quite often in class and lab along with some geometry and trigonometry. The most important things you can do to make math, not only more tolerable but actually a lot easier, is to bring your scientific calculator and Equation sheets with you to class each day and then work the example problems right along with me in class. Then, when you have to do similar problems for homework, there’s a good chance that you will be successful.

13. Class Absence: If you know you’re going to be absent from class, let me know ahead of time. At the very least, you should go to my website: www.oswego.edu/~dristle, and lookup the homework assignment so you can have it done on time for the next class. You don’t have to wait until the next class to turn in the assignment that was due on the day you were absent. Please send it to me via e-mail to make sure you get credit for it.

14. I’m looking forward to a great semester and I hope you are too!

Mr. Dristle