IMPORTANT!!!! READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT!!!!

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Important: This address is specifically for this class, and will secure prompt attention. It is much better than my departmental address, or other addresses, which fill with vast amounts of other email, wherein your questions will likely get buried.

Office Hours, subject to change: Tuesdays from 8:30–9:30. One of the disadvantages of being department head is that I get pretty busy, so it will generally not be possible to meet at other times. However, I always read email and usually answer quickly.

Textbook:  Mathematics for Physics, by Biman Das.

Pre/Co-requisites: You should be enrolled in PHYS-218 or PHYS-208.

Web Sites  http://leona.physics.tamu.edu/Phys101.12f/

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Math Quizzes</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion questions</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
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Letter Grade: Usually, this will be 90% for an A, 80% for a B, 70% for a C, and 60% for a D. I may choose to lower this standard if circumstances suggest the necessity.

Math Quizzes: You will use the elearning web site to access a set of simple math quizzes. Each quiz will have 10 questions (which are timed). To complete a quiz, you must get a perfect score (10/10). After you have completed a quiz you can start the next quiz.

You must successfully complete 10 such quizzes during the first month of the class. That is, you must complete this task before Tuesday, September 28. On that day, you will get a grade that is proportionately based on how many quizzes you completed.

Homework problems will be assigned each week. These will be based on problems from the book. In general, these will be quick and easy but should demonstrate the kind of thing you need to be able to do in PHYS-218.

Discussion questions: We want you to think physics is exciting and cool. About 10 times during the year, there will be a short presentation by a professional physicist about something really cool. Examples might be the recent discovery of the Higgs Boson, quark-gluon plasmas, the accelerated expansion of the universe, the revolution of coherence in optics, new applications of lasers in biophysics, etc. After each of these presentations, you
will discuss the topic with the presenter and with each other, and then write a short blurb discussion the topic.

**Learning outcomes**

1. Students will master the ability to solve simple mathematics problems that are relevant to introductory physics courses.

2. Students will discover many new exciting topics in physics being researched at Texas A&M University, and develop the ability to think about challenging topics.

**Absences:** Absences will be treated according to university regulations, as outlined in the Student Rules. [http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07](http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07). Policies dictating valid excuses and notification thereof are given in the Student Rules. **Note:** Very few conditions qualify as an authorized excused absence, so avoid missing an exam at all costs.

If you miss any exam, with a *valid* excuse, you will be allowed to make up that exam, otherwise the grade will be entered as 0.

If you miss any lab with a *valid* excuse it will be your responsibility to make up that lab on the scheduled make-up day. If you *also* miss the make-up labs with a *valid* excuse, then that lab will not count toward your average, otherwise that lab grade will be entered as 0.

If you miss any daily quiz or recitation quiz with a *valid* excuse, then that recitation work will be eliminated from your average, otherwise that quiz will be given the grade 0.

**The Americans with Disabilities Act** (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life Services for Students with Disabilities in Cain Hall or call 845-1637.


The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate recommends that instructors, particularly of lectures and labs at the freshman and sophomore levels, should include the following paragraphs in their first-day handout materials:

The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By “handouts,” I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one’s own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated.

If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the *Texas A&M University Student Rules*, under the section “Scholastic Dishonesty.”