

Physics 218: Mechanics — **Fall 2006**

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Note: **DO NOT** send email to my departmental address, or other address. You **must** use this email address for communication regarding this course.

Office Hours, subject to change: 1:00–2:30 p.m. Monday
 8:30–10:00 a.m. Tuesday

or by appointment. Please note that “office hours” are times when I am *usually* available. Unavoidable and unpredictable situations, such as previously unscheduled visitors or meetings may affect this. However, I am usually willing to work physics problems whenever you can find me. If my door is open, and I am not in the middle of an emergency, then by all means let’s work physics problems together.

Text: *Don’t Panic* Volume 1, by William H. Bassichis.

Prerequisites: You must have a working knowledge of **algebra**, **plane geometry**, and **trigonometry**.

Corequisites: MATH 151 or equivalent. As the semester progresses you will be expected to have a **working knowledge** of derivatives and integrals, and be proficient in the use of vectors (cartesian and polar coordinate representation, addition, subtraction, dot and cross products).

Grading:	Three exams (@100 points each)	300 points.
	Daily quizzes	150
	Laboratory	100
	Final Exam	<u>200</u>
	Total	750 points.

NOTE: If your final exam grade is higher than your 3-exam average, then the final will count 300/750 points toward your final grade and your exam average will count just 200/750.

Exams: There will be three midterm exams and one final exam. Each exam will generally consist of problems similar in content and difficulty to the class quizzes, homework, and examples from the book and class. The entire solution will be graded and partial credit given if merited. Your work must show the steps toward the solution; the answer alone is not sufficient.

Exams will emphasize the material of a given section, but will by necessity also include concepts from previous sections.

Only simple arithmetic will appear on the exams, so you will not need to bring a calculator. If you can add $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5}$ and multiply 5×13 you will not need a calculator.

You must bring your student ID with you to all exams for identification purposes.

Exam grades may be **curved** depending on the level of difficulty conditions of a particular exam. This **does not** mean that you are competing with each other. I am perfectly happy to give the entire class A's on an exam. (And by the same token, I am willing to give you all F's if that is merited.) In no case will a curve result in a lower letter grade than the standard 90-100% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D and <60% F.

The **Final Exam** will be comprehensive. All material will be weighted equally, it will not weight the material past Exam 3 more than any other material.

Daily Quizzes will cover concepts immediately after they are presented. This will encourage your participation and attendance.

Homework Problems will be assigned weekly, but will not be collected or graded. However, you need to work all of the homework problems to do well on the exams.

Homework problems, and other important information will be posted on the **World Wide Web**, at <http://leona.physics.tamu.edu/Phys218.06f> . You are required to use a computer to check this site regularly. Also, email to me concerning this course must only be sent to me at the email address given above, or via the form at this web address. **Do not send email to me at other email addresses.**

All **lab and recitation** sections meet in Heldenfels Room 118. The first hour is a problem session (recitation) and the second hour is a lab. The recitation is very important — it is your chance for direct help from a young physicist. Labs and recitations do meet during the first week.

Students **retaking the course** can use their lab grade from a previous semester. To do this, go to the physics department office and tell them to provide me with your previous grade.

Absences: If you miss any exam, with a *valid* excuse, you will be allowed to makeup that exam, otherwise the grade will be entered as 0. Policies dictating valid excuses and notification thereof are given in the *Student Rules*, located on the World Wide Web at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rules7.htm> . 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 with a *valid* excuse, then that quiz will be eliminated from your average, otherwise that quiz will be given the grade 0.

Note: Very few conditions qualify as an authorized excused absence, so avoid missing an exam at all costs.

Course Policies

- It is your responsibility to determine what material is being covered each class and the dates of all exams.
- Team work is encouraged outside of class but not on exams.
- You should expect a quiz each class.
- No calculators or notes are permitted on exams.
- Makeup exams are only for University excused absences.
- You should come to lecture having read about the topic and tried problems.
- You should come to recitation with questions on problems.
- You should read the lab manual before each lab.

The Aggie Honor Code:

An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do. (See the Honor Council Rules and Procedures on the Web <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor> .)

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.”