

Tentative Syllabus for Physics Lab 251: Spring 2012
Professor: Dr. Stuart Hutton
Office: Derby Center: 248 Research Lab: Derby 219: General Physics lab: 148
Phone: 870 307 7560
Email: stuart.hutton@lyon.edu
To access the Physics Gateway: <http://hutton.lyon.edu>

During class periods, cell phones are to be switched off.

Office Hours

I will schedule several office hour blocks. I will be very close to my office during these times. Otherwise, I will usually be close to my office or research lab. If you want to find me outside of office hours, make an appointment so that you will be sure to find me. My schedule is located on the physics home page which you may review to determine office hours.

Grading

As a general guide to grades, grades will be assigned as follows:

100-90]	(90-80]	(80-70]	(70-60]	<(60
A	B	C	D	F

There are about 10 labs this semester (noting that lab 1 is in two parts and lab2 is a problem session): each lab provides 10 points in your final grade. The particular grade in each individual lab is awarded as follows: 70% of the grade (or 7 points) is awarded for successful completion of the lab. The other 30% (or 3 points) is awarded for submission of an acceptable report following the guidelines on the lab website. Each student team is to submit an individual and independent lab report for each experiment completed in order to obtain credit with each student in the team submitting an electronic lab report. You will have the opportunity during lab to respond to comments from the received electronic labs and then revise and resubmit your reports.

Note: If you miss one of the labs and it is not made up, your lab grade will be lowered by one letter grade for each missed lab which is not made up.

A portion of your lab grade from any particular experiment may come from oral answers to questions when you turn in your lab report or lab quizzes. Thus, it is important that you understand what you did during the lab before turning the lab report in to your professor. Your work on lab write-ups will be graded for correctness, clarity and completeness. **Failure to supply details leading to a result will result in very little credit for a lab.** If you want full credit for a lab, **you must** supply the logical steps that led to the result and the result **must include proper units.** You should supply sample calculations where appropriate. Diagrams and graphs should be included where appropriate. Aside from data tables and graphs, the components required for the proper lab write-up should take about 2 - 3 pages maximum for any given lab. Be sure that each lab starts with a cover page as indicated in the lab write-up guidelines. Make sure that your lab write-up is in the form of paragraphs with correct English grammar as indicated on the lab write-up guidelines. Failure to follow the guidelines will negatively impact your grade.

This course grade is completely separate from Phy220 and Phy250.

In this course, your grade will depend upon successful completion of lab experiments and reports. **You are also expected to have read the lab before coming to class.** You should bring your text, a calculator, and paper to lab. Labs will be completed and submitted during lab. In order to do this, you will need to come to lab on time. **You can not show up late for lab. Labs start at 13:00 promptly. Simply said, do not come late.** Making up the lab for such absences is normally not permitted: it is thus in your interest to show up to lab on time. Additionally, you should **never plan** other activities during the lab period since labs normally will occupy the entire period.

Lab report formats

If you miss a lab for an excused reason, you must make up the lab as soon as possible. If you hand in a lab report late for an unexcused reason, you will lose a minimum of 10% of your grade. Labs must be submitted in pdf format electronically. **When including spreadsheets in your reports, be sure to format tables so they fit on the page. I should be able to read your lab (as a single document in pdf format) without having to change anything. This means, check your pdfs before you send them to make sure you can read them.**

If you miss a lab for an excusable reason, you must make up the lab for credit. If you schedule a makeup lab and fail to show up for the makeup, no future makeup labs will be permitted. If you miss 3 or more labs (unexcused), you will fail the course. If you miss one of the labs and it is not made up, your lab grade will be lowered by one letter grade for each missed lab which is not made up.

Course Description

In this course you will be exposed to the experimental side of physics. Among the topics that we will investigate are mechanics, waves and thermodynamics.

Course Objectives

As a consequence of this course, you should obtain an enhanced understanding of the experimental nature of physics. In addition, you should come away from this course with an ability to interpret data in a scientifically valid manner and to have increased experience with writing brief technical reports.

Course Prerequisites

In order to be taking the physics lab, you must be currently enrolled in either physics 210 or physics 240 and therefore you must satisfy the prerequisites for those courses.

Text

The text will consist of handouts in electronic format obtained via the physics gateway at:

<http://www.compchem.org/~shutton/index.html>.

Attendance

The Lyon College Catalogue for 2011-2012 states:

Students are expected to attend all class periods for the courses in which they are enrolled. They are responsible for conferring with individual professors regarding any missed assignments. Faculty members are to notify the Registrar when a student misses the equivalent of one, two, three, and four weeks of class periods in a single course. Under this policy, there is no distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. A reminder of the college’s attendance policy will be issued to the student at one week, a second reminder at two weeks, a warning at three weeks, and notification of administrative withdrawal and the assigning of an “F” grade at four weeks. Students who are administratively withdrawn from more than one course will be placed on probation or suspended (see Academic Probation and Academic Suspension).

Academic Honesty

It is expected and encouraged that students in this class will work together on labs as teams. The report will also be constructed (For FA11 only) as a team effort during lab and submitted by each student to the email account I provide you with. Each student must submit an individual copy (even though it may be a duplicate of your team effort). However, you may not submit the work of others outside your team as part of your report: to do so is a violation of the Lyon Honor Code. Thus, each lab should be pledged with the above provisions obeyed.

All graded work in this class is to be pledged in accordance with the Lyon College Honor Code.

“Students seeking reasonable accommodations based on documented learning disabilities must contact the Office of Academic Services at 307-7332.”