

Physics 100: Descriptive Introduction to Physics

Spring 2007 Course Information

Instructor:	Nathan Bramall	Lecture:	MWF 9:10 - 10:00
Phone:	(650) 378-7301 x 19227		Room 36-109
Email:	bramalln@smccd.edu	Office Hours:	Th. 11:00 a.m. to noon
Office:	36-105F		W. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Course Webpage:

<http://smcweb.smccd.net/accounts/bramalln/>

Course Materials:

Required Text: *Conceptual Physics*, 10th edition, Paul G. Hewitt¹

Attendance: Students who are not present in lecture may be dropped from this class during the first few weeks of the semester in order to make room for any students wanting to add the course. In addition, students with excessive absences may be dropped later in the semester.

It is very important that you attend the lectures. Although we will often follow the textbook, the class may diverge from the textbook in emphasis and material, and you are responsible for all of the information presented in the class. If you have to miss a lecture, the best thing to do is get notes from one of your classmates.

You may not make up missed exams or turn in any assignments late without contacting me *prior* to the class period in which the exam is scheduled or the assignment is due.

Class Conduct: Be courteous and respectful to everyone in the class, including myself and your fellow students. This includes arriving to lecture on time and not leaving early and **turning off your cellphone at the beginning of every lecture. If your cell phone rings during an exam, you will get an automatic zero, with no exceptions.**

Homework: It is important that you complete the homework assignments for your personal edification and the more practical fact that the exams will be based on your homework assignments. You may work together on the homework assignments, but please do not simply copy each other's work—be sure that you understand everything that you turn in. If it is readily apparent that another student has copied your homework assignment, you will both receive a zero for the assignment.

Although you may have access to a solutions manual, avoid the temptation to rely on it as you will learn very little from the assignments and you won't have access to it during an exam.

Please also note that the homework assignments should be considered to be the minimal amount of work required to do well in this course. I highly recommend working extra

¹Information about the text and a link to the publisher's website can be found at:
<http://www.smccd.net/accounts/csmphysics/textbook.htm>

problems and reading the relevant sections of the textbook as well as any handouts made available throughout the semester.

Exams: There will be four midterm examinations. You will not be allowed any notes or 'cheat sheets.' I will, however, provide you with all of the equations you will need for each exam so that you will be only responsible for memorizing key concepts.

In this class, concepts are built upon each other, so that material in one week relies on your understanding the material from the previous weeks. Therefore, although each of the midterm examinations will *focus* on the material covered since the previous midterm examination, each exam will be comprehensive to some extent.

The final exam will be completely comprehensive.

Evaluation and Grades: Your grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Midterm Exams ($4 \times 15\%$ each)	60%
Comprehensive Final Exam	20%
Homework Assignments	20%

Please retain all of your graded homework assignments and tests until you receive your final grades in the event that a grading error is made. After each midterm examination, I will report your total current standing in the class. If you feel that I have made any type of grading error on any of your assignments or exams, please come and see me after class or during my office hours (remember to bring the assignment or exam in question).

Office Hours and Other Resources: I will hold regularly scheduled office hours as indicated above. In addition, you may make an appointment to meet with me outside of my regular office hours in order to discuss the course, the course material or anything else. This is best done in person after class or by sending me email. I am more than happy to accommodate your schedules to the best of my ability.

It is a good idea to form study groups and work with your classmates as you'll find that they are a great resource and the act of explaining material to one another will greatly increase your understanding of it. One of the places where you can work together or meet other people to work with outside of class is the **Integrated Science Center**, just down the hall in room 36-110. In addition to providing a good place to work, the center has computers, software, and reference materials that you may use (and a snack corner!).

Important Dates:

	Classes Begin
Monday, January 16	
Monday, January 29	Last day to drop semester-long classes with eligibility for fee credit or partial refund
Monday, January 29	Last day to obtain authorization code to add semester-long classes
Friday, February 9	Semester-long classes officially dropped on or before this date will not appear on the student's record
Wednesday, February 14	Midterm #1
Friday, February 16	<i>Holiday: Abraham Lincoln</i>
Saturday, February 17- Sunday, February 18	<i>Declared Recess</i>
Monday, February 19	<i>Holiday: President's Day</i>
Friday, March 2	Last day to apply for May 2007 A.A./A.S. Degree or Program Certificate
Friday, March 16	Midterm #2
Monday, April 2- Sunday, April 8	<i>Spring Recess</i>
Friday, April 20	Midterm #3
Thursday, April 26	Last day to withdraw officially from a semester-long class with assurance of a "W" grade
Wednesday, May 16	Midterm #4
Monday, May 21	FINAL EXAMINATION 8:10 a.m.- 10:40 a.m., Room 36-109
Friday, May 25	Classes close
Saturday, June 9	Final grades available on WebSMART
