

Tentative Syllabus for Physics 390: Fall 2013

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**During class periods and during tests:
cell phones are to be switched off.**

Office Hours

I will schedule several office hour blocks. I will be very close to my office or research lab 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:

200-180] A	(180-160] B	(160-140] C	(140-120] D	<(120 F
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The final course grade may reflect subjective course aspects such as attendance and positive class participation.

In this course, you will have several grading opportunities. The various weight of each of these activities in your final point grade is shown below. You are required to attend each seminar session. If you miss a session, your grade will be reduced by 10 points.

Note: The timing is presented as {x:y} where x is for a 5 student schedule and y is a for a 6 student schedule. This may require adjustment if class size changes.

This class will consist of several {10:8} minute timed presentations of which {8:6} minutes is devoted to presentation and ≈ 2 minutes is devoted to question and answer sessions (5 presentations for each class period). There will also be a formal presentation consisting of a total of 25 minute and: 20 minutes will be devoted to a formal presentation based upon independent research on an approved physics topic and 4 minutes will be devoted to question and answer sessions. A formal paper covering the formal presentation will be due the week of November 7 - November 11. **As you can see, our time is tight so it is extremely important that you arrive on time and ready to begin.**

Grades will be obtained as follows:

Each {10:8} minute presentation period provides a maximum of 10 points: 8 points total for a presentation and 2 points total for active class discussion.

Total for {8:6} minute presentations=100 points.

On the dates shown on the schedule, you will submit (electronically) required preliminary topics, updates or rough drafts. You will receive 2.5 points for each of these submissions for a total **of 20 points**. The formal paper will provide you with an additional **30 points**. The formal presentation will provide you with an additional **50 points**.

Total maximum course points: 100+20+30+50=200

Presentations will be graded for preparedness and correctness.

Do not try to give a presentation that you have not adequately prepared for! This means that you must normally set aside time to prepare your presentations each week.

Your topics for the {10:8} minute presentations will come from the areas of physics mentioned during the particular week. I will provide you with several topics within each area for your selection. Topics 8, 9 and 10 will be self-chosen, subject to approval and must come from physics areas. The topic choice for the formal presentation is subject to professor approval and must come from physics areas.

Course Description

In this course, you will have an opportunity to gain experience with presentation of complex topics in physics. Topics will be at the level of each student's background in physics. Individually chosen topics may come from areas beyond general physics (such as modern physics), subject to approval.

Course Objectives

As a consequence of this course, you should obtain an enhanced understanding of the fundamentals of physics. In addition, you should come away from this course with an ability to discuss, among peers fundamental problems involving physical principles.

Course Prerequisites

Students in this course must have completed the following:

- (1) either Physics 210 or 240 (2) Physics 241
- (3) either Physics 220 or 250 (4) Physics 251

Text Book: There is no required text for this course.

You have many resources on the campus: the library, your colleagues and your professor. Your prime learning resource, however, must be considered to be the classroom: **punctual** and **complete** class attendance is expected. **Absences will negatively impact your final grade. Tardiness is considered to be an unexcused absence and will negatively impact your final grade.**

Attendance

The Lyon College Catalogue for 2012-2013 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 homework problems. If you use reference work, be sure to include proper references. On tests, students are required to keep notes and books closed except as instructed. **Your professor will supply all the paper needed for the tests.** Any questions during tests should be directed to the professor only. **CELL PHONES AND OTHER WIRELESS OR NETWORKED DEVICES (INCLUDING COMPUTERS) MAY NOT BE USED DURING TESTS,** If you do use such devices during a test, it will automatically be considered to be a violation of the Lyon College Honor Code. **When you use references in your work, they must be properly referenced; both in talks and in written work.**

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."