

Syllabus for Physics 211, spring 2010

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- prerequisite** The prerequisites are Math 150A and Physics 210, and the corequisite is Math 150B.
- office hours** My office hours are in the classroom (not my office), M 9:30-10:30, Tu 12-1, Tu 4:30-5:30, W 12-1, Th 4:30-5:30. I urge you to pick at least one of these office hours to come to every week as part of your habitual schedule; if none of my office hours fits your weekly schedule, please give me a copy of your schedule written out on a grid, and we'll see what we can work out.
- web page** www.lightandmatter.com/area3phys206.html
To e-mail me, use your Spotter account.
- required materials** The texts are *Relativity Simply Explained*, *Electricity and Magnetism*, *Optics*, *The Modern Revolution in Physics*, and the lab manual. You will also need a cheap calculator, two bound $10 \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ -inch lab notebooks with graph paper pages (near the art supplies at the bookstore), a metric ruler, a protractor, a free FC computer account, and your own e-mail.
- getting started** Here's a quick summary of the things you need to do by the second class meeting:

1. Get everything listed under "required materials" above.
2. Print out the book and lab manual, or buy printed copies of them, using one of the options I described in my e-mail.
3. Read this syllabus.
4. Consult the schedule on page 4. Do the listed reading and the homework problems. Take notes on the reading, and make a photocopy of them.
5. If you don't already have e-mail, get an account.

grading Grades will be determined as follows:

homework	53 graded problems * @ 1 point each	53
reading quizzes	36 questions @ 1 point each	36
reading notes	18 @ 1 points each	18
check-off labs	12 @ 6 points each	72
lab writeups	4 @ 12 points each	48
prelabs	16 @ 2 points each	32
exams	4 @ 180 points each	720

* Calculus-based problems for Physics 211 students count as extra credit.

points	grade
80%	A
70%	B
60%	C
50%	D

reading notes I'll maintain a folder for you containing your notes on the reading. These are the notes you get to use on the exams. You should do the notes on a computer (for ease of revision), and do them after you read, not while reading (so that you know what ended up being the main points).

On any date when reading is assigned, you should be prepared for an open-notes quiz, and print out an extra copy of your notes on the reading; you'll turn in the copy, and I'll add it to your folder. It has to be a copy, because you need the original for your own use in studying and problem solving. I expect you to bring your own copy of your notes to school so that, e.g., we can refer to them together if you're getting help in my office hours. I will not accept hand-written notes.

Your notes need to be entirely in your own words; stating everything in your own words is a good way to test and consolidate your own understanding. Cutting and pasting from the book would be a form of cheating on exams (because the exams are not open-book), and would also be plagiarism if the copied material wasn't properly attributed.

Shorter is better. The laws of physics are fundamentally simple. I would suggest limiting yourself to no more than half a page per chapter. By the end of the semester, the simple underlying structure of the material will have become more and more obvious to you, and I think you should be able to go back over your notes and edit them down to no more than about a page *total*. It's not against the rules for your notes to be too long, but it's not smart, either; long notes usually indicate that you're not distinguishing fundamental principles from trivia, or that you're making futile efforts to write a cookbook of problem-solving techniques, which is a self-defeating way to approach problem solving. If it feels too scary to walk into an exam with short notes, I suggest making a separate long version as a security blanket, but sealing them shut with a big binder clip to remind yourself that using them is probably a mistake, indicating that you aren't working from basic principles.

OpenOffice for note-taking

For note-taking, I recommend that you use the free OpenOffice word-processor, which makes it easy to do equations. You can download it from openoffice.org. If you don't have a computer at home, you can use the ones in room 416 or 2000, which have OpenOffice installed. When you're writing equations, in most cases all you need in order to make them readable is a few superscripts. For example, suppose you want to write the equation $v^2 = 2ax$ in your notes. Just type `v2=2ax`, then select the 2 with the mouse and do `Format>Character>Position>Superscript`.

If you want to get fancier, you can use OpenOffice's built-in equation editor. Do `Insert>Object>Formula`, and an empty gray box for the equation is inserted in your document. An equation editor window pops up at the bottom of the screen, and a toolbox of mathematical symbols at the top. Although the toolbox is supposed to make it easier to find and enter the symbols you want, I found it to be more confusing; the most straightforward way to do it, in my opinion, is to type directly into the equation editor. You have to learn the codes for the things you want to type, but there are only three codes you'll typically ever need: `^` for superscripts, `_` for subscripts, and `over` for fractions. Enter a Greek letter as, e.g., `%theta`, making sure to put a space after it. As an example, to make

$$\Delta x = \frac{1}{2}at^2 + v_0t \quad ,$$

you would do `%DELTA x = 1 over 2 at^2 + v.o t`. Note that the spaces after DELTA, both 2's, and o are mandatory. It understands parentheses, so, e.g., `1 over (2+3)` gives $\frac{1}{(2+3)}$. For invisible parentheses use curly brackets, e.g., `1 over {2+3}` produces $\frac{1}{2+3}$.

Spotter

Spotter is computer software I've written to help you check your answers to homework problems. It can check both numerical answers and symbolic ones. Having Spotter helps you more than having answers in the back of the book, because it is programmed to give you helpful pointers. If you put in an wrong answer that I've anticipated, it will explain why it's wrong. If your answer doesn't make sense in terms of units, it will tell you that. If you get a wrong answer, you can redo the problem and put in the right answer later for full credit.

Problems that are underlined on page 5 of the syllabus have purely mathematical answers, and are in Spotter. To get credit for an online homework problem, you need to enter a correct answer in Spotter, and also turn in your written calculations and explanations along with the rest of the homework. What I'm really trying to do here is get you to come to my office hours and get help if you can't get the right answer — Spotter helps you by letting you know whether you have the problem right *before* you turn it in.

You don't need to install the software; you just use it through a web browser. Start from the class's web page, then click on the link to the class's Spotter page. Once you're in Spotter, make sure to log in, or else you won't get credit for your work! Once you're logged in, all your answers will be recorded.

When using Spotter, you have to be careful about the notation you use for inputting mathematical expressions. Spotter is designed to allow you to use something resembling normal human mathematical notation, as opposed to the notation used in computer programs. However, human math notation is designed for humans, not computers, and you need to learn a few things about how to type your expressions in a form that Spotter will interpret correctly.

First, everything you type will be smashed down to one line of text, eliminating the superscripts and subscripts. For example, a variable name with a subscript, like x_1 , is entered as `x1`. Since there are no superscripts, you have to enter exponents using the `^` symbol (shift-6), e.g., x^2 becomes `x^2`. You can enter a square root as either `sqrt(x)` or `x^.5`. There is no way to enter the times symbol, \times , without confusing the computer and making it think you meant the variable x , so in scientific notation you should simply leave a space where you would normally put the times symbol, e.g., 5×10^6 becomes `5 10^6`. Don't try to enter this as `5e+6`; that's what a lot of computer software would want, but Spotter is trying to interpret everything as normal human notation, so it will think you meant $5e + 6$, where e is a variable.

Another thing to keep in mind is that human languages, including human math notation, are ambiguous. Use parentheses liberally to make your meaning clear. There are two main situations where you need to watch out. First, arguments to functions: `sin 2x` will be interpreted as $(\sin 2)(x)$; if you intended $\sin(2x)$, you should have entered `sin(2x)`. Second, the bottom of fractions: `1/3c` will be interpreted as $(1/3)c$, so if you want $\frac{1}{3c}$, you need to enter `1/(3c)`.

An advantage of using Spotter in the free Firefox web browser (firefox.com) is that, unlike Internet Explorer, Firefox can display mathematical equations. As you type in the equation, it will show you, "on the fly," its interpretation of what you're typing. This makes it much easier to avoid confusion about how to enter your answers.

**academic honesty
policy**

In cases of serious academic dishonesty, I will assign a zero on the work, and I will also pursue action at the college level, which may result in penalties such as suspension or expulsion. Serious academic dishonesty includes cheating on an exam, or turning in homework that is plagiarized from my solutions.

I will also assign a zero in cases where two students turn in homework or lab reports that contain identical or nearly identical work.

labs

At the end of the first lab in the lab manual, there is information about the organization of labs. Note that most labs have prelab questions, which you're expected to turn in on a piece of paper (not in a lab notebook) at the beginning of lab.

If you miss a lab, you can only make it up in one of my other lab classes over the rest of the week, and it is still due at the same time it's due for everyone else. If you want to make up a lab, you should leave a note for Hanh Pham, the physics technician, in the physics stockroom in room 417T.

drops

I will drop you under any of the following conditions:

- You miss any lab or lecture during the first two weeks without contacting me in advance by e-mail. If I don't receive any written work from you, I will consider that the same as an absence on that day.
- You miss an exam without contacting me in advance by e-mail.
- Over a period of seven consecutive days, you don't turn in any homework or quizzes, and don't complete all the lab work (participating in lab, and turning in written lab work when it's due).

Schedule for Physics 211, spring 2010

		read ch.	hw	topics	lab
Jan.19	Tu				21 static electricity
	Th	1*	1	Electricity and the atom.	
26	Tu	2	2	The nucleus.	47 radioactivity
	Th	3	3	Circuits, part 1.	
Feb. 2	Tu		4		24 electrical resistance
	Th		5		
9	Tu	4	6	Circuits, part 2.	25 loop and junction rules
	Th		7		
16	Tu		8		22 the oscilloscope
	Th	5	9	Fields of force.	
23	Tu		10		26 electric fields
	Th			<i>exam 1</i> †	
Mar. 2	Tu	6	11	Electromagnetism	27 magnetism
	Th		12		
9	Tu	1**	13	The ray model of light.	36 electromagnetism
	Th	2	14	Images by reflection, part I.	
16	Tu		15		31 e/m of the electron
	Th	3	16	Images by reflection, part II.	
23	Tu	4		Refraction and images.	<i>exam 2</i> †
	Th	G1***	17		
Apr. 6	Tu	5,G2	18	Wave optics.	38 refraction and images
	Th	G3	19		
13	Tu	G4	20		39 geometric optics
	Th			<i>exam 3</i> †	
20	Tu	1.1-2****	21	Relativity	40 2-source interference
	Th	1.3	22		
27	Tu		23		41 wave optics
	Th	2	24	Rules of randomness.	
May 4	Tu	3	25	Light as a particle.	44 electron diffraction
	Th	4	26	Matter as a wave.	
11	Tu	5	27	The atom.	43 photoelectric effect
	Th		28		
18	Tu		29		45 hydrogen atom
20	Th			<i>exam 4</i> †	

†All exams are cumulative. Each exam will concentrate on the material that you haven't yet been tested on. The last date to add notes to your folder for use on an exam is the preceding lecture.

Exam 1 covers all the reading through ch. 4 of *Electricity and Magnetism* plus all of Physics 205/210.

Exam 2 covers *Electricity and Magnetism* and 205/210.

Exam 3 covers *Electricity and Magnetism*, ch. 1-4 of *Optics*, and 205/210.

Exam 4 covers everything.

* Begin reading from *Electricity and Magnetism*. For the first reading assignment, in addition to the first chapter of *Electricity and Magnetism* you should download *Newtonian Physics* from lightandmatter.com and read chapter 1; you'll need this material in order to do problems involving scaling and order-of-magnitude estimates, such as homework problem #2 on the first homework assignment.

** Begin reading from *Optics*.

*** Begin reading from Gardner.

**** Begin reading from *The Modern Revolution in Physics*. I've rewritten ch. 1 recently, and the homework problems in ch. 1 have also changed. The new version has a picture of a GPS unit as the first figure. If you have the old version of the book, please download the new version of ch. 1 from <http://www.lightandmatter.com/areabook6.html>.

Homework for Physics 211

Homework assignments are listed below.

Underlined problems are in Spotter (see page 2).

Note that in many of the homework problems, you need to look up data in the back of the book.

Homework assignments 1 through 14 are from *Electricity and Magnetism*:

- hw 1: Ch. 1, #1 2,7
hw 2: Ch. 1, #5 3,4 Ch. 2, #1
hw 3: Ch. 1, #6 Ch. 2, #3,7 2,4,5
hw 4: Ch. 3, #6,7
hw 5: Ch. 3, #1,2,4
Do the conceptual exercises with circuits in Spotter, linked to from the class's web page.
hw 6: Ch. 3, #3,10,11 8
If you haven't done error analysis before in a lab class, read the relevant appendices in the lab manual to prepare for lab 25.
hw 7: Ch. 3, #5,9 Ch. 4, #1
hw 8: Ch. 4, #2 3,4
hw 9: Ch. 4, #5,6cd 6ab
hw 10: Ch. 4, #7-9 Ch. 5, #1
hw 11: Ch. 4, #10 Ch. 5, #5 2,3
hw 12: Ch. 5, #6 Ch. 6, #1bc,2b 1a,2a,4
hw 13: Ch. 5, #7 Ch. 6, #3,5,6bcdfg,7 6ae

Homework assignments 15 through 22 are from *Optics* except as noted:

- hw 14: Ch. 1, #1-4,6
hw 15: Ch. 1, #5 Ch. 2, #2,3 1
hw 16: Ch. 2, #4-7 Ch. 3, #1,2,7,8,10
hw 17: Ch. 3, #3,4,6 Ch. 4, #1,2
hw 18: Ch. 4, #4,7,15 10
hw 19: Ch. 4, #3,8 6,11,12 Ch. 5, #13
hw 20: Ch. 5, #2,10 12
hw 21: Ch. 5, #1,4,6,9,11 3 MR 1, #2

Homework assignments 23 through 28 are from *The Modern Revolution in Physics* except as noted:

- hw 22: Ch. 1, #1,7
hw 23: Ch. 1, #3 4
hw 24: Ch. 1, #5,8
hw 25: Ch. 1, #9,11 Ch. 2, #1,2
hw 26: Ch. 2, #3-6,8 7 Ch. 3, #2
hw 27: Ch. 2, #9 Ch. 3, #5,8 1,11 Ch. 4, #1,2
hw 28: Ch. 3, #9 7 Ch. 4, #3,5 Ch. 5, #1,2
hw 29: Ch. 4, #4 Ch. 5, #3,5,6 4,7