

Physics 0481 – Spring, 2016

Lecturer - Prof. Steven Dytman. Office: 416 Allen Hall. Phone: 412-624-9244. Email: dytman@pitt.edu. Office hours will be set, send email for specific appointment.

Textbook – *Modern Physics, 3rd ed.* by Krane. I highly recommend that you buy a copy. In this course, we will tentatively cover chapters 8, 9 and 11-15. Many other texts might be useful.

Goals - Our aim is to teach you a more sophisticated picture of the world - getting a better view from both a qualitative and quantitative perspective. You should become able to think critically and apply principles of physics to situations. The material covered will be a bridge between elementary and more advanced courses, the concepts and mathematics used will be more advanced than 0174, 0175, and 0477.

Homework- Problems for each chapter will be assigned each Friday. Working through these problems is almost always an important part of the learning process. The work will be due in class about 1 week after the proper ideas are covered in lecture. You are required to do your own work; working in groups is encouraged, but copying from any source is plagiarism and very dishonest (and self-defeating). No recitations are scheduled for this course; makeup classes will be needed.

Courseweb- This will be used primarily for homework assignments and grades.

Quizzes- There will be 1-2 quizzes, always announced and always on recent work.

Exams- There will be two exams during the term in class:
Friday, February 12
Friday, March 18

If you can't be at an exam, let me know as soon as possible as an unexcused absence will result in a failure. Excused absences will be allowed for important reasons such as a death in the family or illness. Written documentation is usually required. Makeup exams are seldom given, but no credit will be lost for an exam that is missed for a valid reason.

Final paper – Instead of a final exam, you will write a paper on a subject related to the course. Length will be about 12 pages (double spaced). Topics must be approved by professor.

Grading- Homework and quiz grades will contribute 20% of the final grade; your willingness to contribute to public discussion will contribute another 5%. The two in-term exams will contribute a total of 50%, each of them 25%. The final paper will account for the remaining 25%.

Disabilities: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890/(412) 383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. A comprehensive description of the services of that office can be obtained at www.drs.pitt.edu.