

ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE
One of the Alamo Community Colleges
"A Point of Pride in the Community"

Department of Natural Sciences
Phys 1305 General Physics
Spring Semester 2009

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Office: Science Building, Room 216

Textbook: Conceptual Physics by Hewitt

1 Course Description

Phys 1305, Introduction to Physics I is designed to cover the physics of **Mechanics** and **Heat Energy** using a conceptual approach with little reliance on mathematical concepts.

2 Course Schedule (tentative)

This is an optimistic schedule that may be modified as the instructor deems necessary after evaluating the class' grasp of early topics.

Week	Date	Description
1	Jan 17	Ch. 1 & 2 - Intro & Newton's 1st Law of Motion
2	Jan 24	Ch. 3 - Linear Motion
3	Jan 31	Ch. 4 - Newton's 2nd Law of Motion
4	Feb 07	Ch. 5 - Newton's 3rd Law of Motion
5	Feb 14	Ch. 6 - Momentum
6	Feb 21	Ch. 7 - Energy
7	Feb 28	Ch. 8 - Rotational Motion
8	Mar 07	Ch. 9 - Gravity
9	Mar 14	Spring Break (No class)
10	Mar 21	Ch. 10 - Rotational Motion & Kepler's Laws
11	Mar 28	Ch. 11 Atomic Nature of Matter
12	Apr 04	Ch. 12 - Solids
13	Apr 11	Easter Break (No class)
14	Apr 18	Ch. 13 - Liquids
15	Apr 25	Ch. 14 - Gases & Plasmas
16	May 01	Ch. 15 - 18 Thermodynamics
17	May 09	FINAL EXAM 9:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

3 Evaluation and Grading Procedures

The course grade will be computed as follows:

Description	Percentage
2 or 3 Tests and Final Examination	60
Homework Quizzes	30
Research Paper	5
Class Participation	5

Each test and the comprehensive final exam will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank and calculation type questions. Unless otherwise stated the student may refer to the textbook, class notes and homework problems while taking the tests. Any form of dishonesty will not be tolerated on any test or exam and will result in a zero grade.

Students are expected to prepare for class by reading the assigned chapters in the text-book before the beginning of the class period. The student is responsible for all the assigned material even if the assigned material is not covered in class. All assignments and handouts will be posted on the Phys 1305 class website.

(<http://www.accd.edu/spc/acad/natsci/jmenchaca/Phys1305.htm>)

There will be approximately 12 homework assignments which will **not** be collected or graded. Discussion of homework assignments with colleagues is permitted and encouraged. Two types of periodic quizzes will be given to evaluate each students progress with the material. The first is a closed book/closed notes “Bonus” quiz intended to reward those students who are in class on time and have studied the material and will be given promptly at 9:00 AM. The second is a follow-up take home quiz intended to evaluate the students ability to calculate word problems and will be given after reviewing the homework assignment. Students who are tardy or absent and miss the 9:00 AM bonus quiz will receive no bonus points and will not be allowed to make it up. Students who are absent and do not receive the take home quiz handout must request it via e-mail since the quizzes will not be posted at the class website.

The class participation grade will be based on the student’s ability to stay focused on class activities and the student’s contribution to those activities. Unauthorized activities, such as visiting unauthorized web pages on a laptop computer or carrying on distracting discussions with classmates will reduce a students participation grade.

4 Disability

If you have a disability which compromises your performance in the classroom, let me know so that we can seek assistance in a timely manner.

5 Grading Scale

A normal grading scale will be used though a curve may be applied if the instructor deems it necessary.

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade
90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

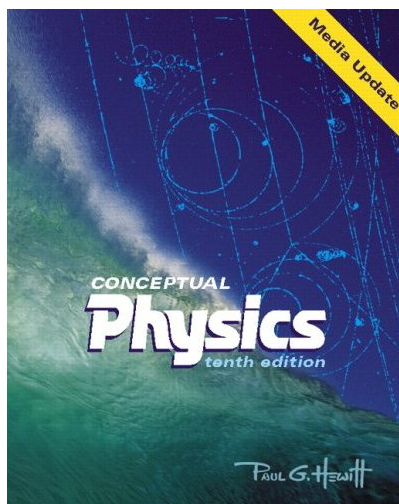
6 Attendance Policy

Students should try to avoid being late for class since it is disruptive to the lecture process and may distract other students' focus. Each student is allowed two unexcused absences. Students accumulating three absences by the withdrawal date of April 13 may be dropped from the course. If at some point before the withdrawal date a student feels he/she cannot continue taking the class, the student should initiate the withdrawal procedure and not count on the instructor to initiate it. Discontinuing class attendance does not constitute a "withdrawal" from the class. If a student has a compelling reason for a large number of absences, he/she should consult with the instructor to determine what alternatives may be exercised.

A brief break will be taken about the midpoint of the class. Students who do not return to the class room after the break without prior approval by the instructor will be counted as absent for the entire class period.

7 Items needed for class

- Scientific calculator
- Pencil and Ruler
- Textbook, Conceptual Physics by Paul G. Hewitt (10th Edition, 2005)



8 Conference

The instructor will be available for student help (tutorial) approximately 15 minutes before and after class. If needed, special arrangements may be made to extend the time either before or after class, or at a time and location mutually agreeable to the student and instructor.