

# Physics & Astronomy 221 – Fundamentals of Physics – S

## Spring Semester 2024 – 3 Credit Hours

### Online Learning

#### Instructor

John Kielkopf  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
University of Louisville  
Louisville, KY 40292, USA

University Email: [kielkopf@louisville.edu](mailto:kielkopf@louisville.edu)  
Telephone: 502.852.5990

This class is entirely online. It uses content we provide from our own servers, a free textbook, and the University's Blackboard system for testing and grades. Your work will be at your own pace whenever you want to do it. There are no scheduled class times. However the course has weekly assignments which are required. See the section below about how to begin your class.

The class has teaching assistants who help me with grading and who will also will help you if you need assistance. When their contact information is available it will be added to the Blackboard site as well. There is a discussion forum on our class website where questions should be asked and answered. When you need individual assistance try University email rather than a phone call, and always put the course name "221-50" on the subject line. While phone calls and video conferences are other options, email is the best one for us if it works for you.

#### Quick read

Go to Blackboard and check out "Start Here" to have access to class content online. The class is all about contemporary physics and is meant to be conceptual, engaging, and applicable to science-related career preparation using math at the level of college algebra. There is work due each week based on this content, and you will receive email reminders when it is due. Use the class website discussion group. We watch that, can offer advice or answer questions, and you get credit for participation too. For the rest, read on.

#### Objectives

Physics is the foundation of the sciences that enable us to understand the universe on the largest and smallest scales, from the beginning of time to its uncertain future. It is also the practical basis of contemporary technology, engineering, medicine, and biology.

In this first of a two-semester sequence on the fundamental concepts and methods of physics we will explore how physics works, learn the necessary math concepts to use it, and apply it to mechanics, heat, and sound.

The objective of this course is to incorporate physics into your critical thinking skills, and to develop your ability to understand and solve problems using the fundamental concepts

of physics and a reasoned approach that seeks simplification leading to quantitative understanding of how nature behaves. This is a pre-professional course and is one of two semesters that together cover much of “classical physics”. We will not ignore the really interesting new developments though, as we build a foundation that will

- Help you understand (and cope with) physics encountered in everyday life: LED light bulbs, microwave ovens, and car parts.
- Provide a basis for understanding the latest developments about science you will hear in the news: colliding blackholes, global warming.
- Apply physics principles to astronomy, geology, biology, chemistry, medicine, engineering, music, and yes, to cats.
- Recognize that while physics does not explain everything, it does predict observable effects through sometimes intangible, invisible, and not fully understood processes.
- Present you with mysteries not yet solved, perhaps so that you may solve them in the future and win a Nobel Prize giving due credit to your physics class.
- Teach physics that you may apply to make life better for yourself and others now, and in the future.
- Open your mind to new discovery by knowing that the world should be understandable.

## Cardinal Core Outcomes and Assessments

Natural Sciences are concerned with understanding the laws of nature and the physical world. Students who satisfy the Cardinal Core requirement for Natural Sciences will be able to do all of the following:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the nature and methods of science inquiry.
2. Apply scientific principles: to interpret evidence, to make predictions, and/or to explain cross-cutting concepts in one or more of the sciences.
3. Explain how scientific principles relate to issues of personal and/or societal importance.
4. Communicate effectively an understanding of scientific concepts and experimental outcomes in speech or writing, using sound scientific terminology and citation appropriate to the discipline.

In this course these outcomes will be assessed through online weekly quizzes, and two longer tests. A monitored online forum for class discussion of topics posed both by students and by the instructor will encourage students to develop their knowledge, deeper understanding of the science, and the skills to communicate effectively with others.

## Outcome 1

*Demonstrate an understanding of the nature and methods of science inquiry.*

The course covers how we have come to understand the entire universe through physics and emphasizes in this first semester motion, energy, gravity, heat, thermodynamics and sound. This embodies many of the elements that begin even before written history but continue to this day especially in applications as a basis for atmospheric science, energy generation and Earth's energy balance, space exploration, mechanical and civil engineering, bio-mechanics, and bio-medical devices. A second semester continues with electricity, magnetism, optics, relativity and quantum phenomena. Understanding the roles of individual scientists and their contemporaries, the methods enabling their discoveries, how their knowledge was communicated, and the current process of scientific enterprise, is part of the course content and is tested in quizzes and exams. Additionally, thoughtful questions posed to others in the class are encouraged to engage one another in analysis of the topics at hand, and to develop communication skills.

## Outcome 2

*Apply scientific principles: to interpret evidence, to make predictions, and/or to explain cross-cutting concepts in one or more of the sciences.*

While physics is based on observation and measurement, the analysis of the observations leads to a broader understanding of the fundamental natural laws that simplify the apparent complexity of the natural world. The emphasis in this course is on understanding what those facts tell us about the universe, how we come to those conclusions, and what the uncertainties are in that process. These fundamental ideas of physics unify our understanding of the current state of the universe, and allow us to predict or model its future. Examples span from our everyday experiences to those we can only imagine. They include musical instruments and their sounds, flying airplanes and crashing automobiles, subatomic particles and the one that gives mass to matter, radioactivity and nuclear power, Earth's energy balance and global temperature rise. This content is included in the weekly homework, quizzes and exams as appropriate for the topics at hand.

## Outcome 3

*Explain how scientific principles relate to issues of personal and/or societal importance.*

The role of science in modern society is a topic that recurs throughout this class, especially in the context of technology that depends on physics. We look at how things work with their dependence on the principles of mechanics, electricity, magnetism, thermodynamics, quantum mechanics and relativity. We also explore topics of immediate pressing concern such how modern society generates the energy it needs, power from the Sun, the Earth's global temperature rise, and beyond Earth to consider space exploration. During the term we also look at the ways in which society supports scientific discovery, and the benefits and costs of that enterprise, often based on selections from current news or exciting developments in fundamental and applied physics. This content is included in the weekly homework, quizzes and longer tests.

## Outcome 4

*Communicate effectively an understanding of scientific concepts and experimental outcomes in speech or writing, using sound scientific terminology and citation appropriate to the discipline.*

There are required written responses to posed questions on the quizzes, homework, and exams. The topics for these questions are explored in a discussion forum for the class that invites participation by everyone, so that skills to communicate scientific concepts develop during the course when students explain those concepts to one another, and pose questions to their peers. The forum is mentored, and the other written components of the assignments become part of the class grade.

## Requirements

Blackboard and the class website will guide you through weekly topics over the semester, and will pose specific ideas and questions to consider. While you study, you are expected to use the discussion forum with other students in the same way that you would work with one another for any class. This is a very important part of the class and we monitor the forum to see where you are having difficulty. We encourage collaboration and peer instruction because our goal is to have you learn by whatever means you find most helpful, but of course you must do your own work. We will try to resolve questions you may have for the class as a whole through the discussion forum whenever we can, and to respond to email individually as needed.

Use the discussion forum, take your time to understand, ask questions when you need help, and remember the objective is to learn how to observe, reason, and use your growing knowledge and skill to understand how physics helps us understand the universe. Individual and group assistance through email, video conferencing, or telephone is available on request.

Every week access the class website through Blackboard (see below) for new web-based interactive content, suggested readings from the textbook, a homework problem, and the discussion forum. Use Blackboard Assignments to submit the homework as a single PDF file, and take the weekly quiz any time from Saturday through the usual due date Monday midnight (US Eastern Time). There will be two longer tests instead of quizzes, one at midterm, and one at the end of the course. We will send email reminders weekly about these assignments.

## Blackboard

The University's Blackboard system is its gateway to support for all of its classes:

<https://blackboard.louisville.edu/>

Use your University *User ID* and *Password* to log into Blackboard. Select the course (Fundamentals of Physics) for the latest announcements, a link to the class website, and to submit the weekly work.

**Start Here** provides guidance the first time and will help if you are new to online classes.

**Announcements** are updated at least weekly with the topic and any new instructions. These are also sent to you by email.

**Assignments** will have your weekly homework upload, quizzes and exams, available Saturday morning through Monday midnight.

**Content** has the link to our class web server. It is different from Blackboard and requires its own password (see below).

**Tools** is a link provided by the University to many different features of Blackboard and its commercial partners. If we need these (for example Collaborate Ultra) we will also link to them from Content. This tab is overflowing with options, most of which you do not need.

**My Grades** will be updated with assessments of recent work when it is evaluated. Your course grade is the average of 4 parts of which the homework is 10%, quizzes are 50% and each test is 20%. You also must participate in the class content and discussions, so use the class website with your userID and stay active in the class each week.

**Help** will take you to Blackboard support. Please note that this does not provide help with our class website which we run ourselves. If you need help with it, send an email and we will work with you individually.

## Class website

Content for this course is provided through our server at

<https://prancer.physics.louisville.edu/moodle>

which you may bookmark for direct access during the week, or click on the link in Blackboard for the course under Content.

This resource requires a login with a user ID and password. We create these accounts for you using your U of L ID (something like “abwxyz01”) which you use for access to university online resources. The list we use is based on Blackboard enrollment and it may lag your enrollment in the class by a day. You should send an email to remind us if the following does not work.

When you go to the class site the first time you will be asked to enter a user name and password. For the name use your U of L ID (in the form “abwxyz01”) For the password use the one we will provide on the Announcements page, and also on the Content link, of your Blackboard class. Once you do this the first time, the server will request that you enter a new password. You may then select your own. You may also edit your personal information on the server if you want to share it with others in the class. The next time you connect you will need to use the password you created. We advise not to use the same password you have on other university accounts for your own protection. Should you forget or need to change your password we will provide another one for you if you request one by email. This server does not store grades, but it provides records for us of your participation in the class, and we use it for the discussion forum for the course too. If you are also taking another online Physics & Astronomy class using this server this semester you will only need to create a new password once. Once you log in, our site will offer to you the content for classes that we know you are taking. Send an email if you think something is amiss.

## Textbook

The content will be provided online through the class website. For additional help, the recommended text for the course is

*College Physics*, Openstax College, 2022

It is made available under the auspices of Rice University and other donors **for free** online at

<https://openstax.org/details/books/college-physics-2e>

Click links on the class website or Blackboard for the interactive version which also supports note-taking, or “Download a PDF” if you prefer a static version on your device or computer. A print version is available through the Openstax site links. This is a comprehensive general college physics textbook that uses algebra. It covers two semesters and has many worked problems and illustrations you will find helpful. Selected readings will be indicated in the on-line website for the class. If you have a background in calculus, there is a similar Openstax book that is calculus-based but we do not use it explicitly in this course.

In many cases, simply by using Google and looking for an appropriate entry in Wikipedia you can find an answer to basic physics questions, and links to far more detail than most textbooks provide. If you follow this suggestion, be selective in accepting answers from Internet resources. Wikipedia has proven to be very reliable, as is the Khan Academy and sites supported by NASA. There will be selected links to these resources and others on the class website.

Information on useful software and other materials will be provided online. No matter what kind of computer you use, there will be tools available for you. Because the class is entirely online, you will need Internet access and would benefit from a laptop, Chromebook, or desktop computer for working with the content and completing the assignments.

## Evaluation and Grading

Required submissions to Blackboard evaluate your progress toward meeting the course and Cardinal Core objectives with a variety of question formats, and will include written responses to assess outcomes.

Each week look for a homework assignment on the class website. Give that some thought, discuss the topic with others as needed, and respond with your work using a single PDF file on Blackboard whenever you are ready before due date, usually the Monday of the following week. Our teaching assistants will assess your response and provide individual feedback. The average score on this part is 10% of your grade.

Quizzes at the end of each week will help you to stay current in the course and to understand and retain the new material. These quizzes are focused on the core material for the week and are not timed, so once they are open you may work on them until you submit your work. However, quizzes are usually due before Monday midnight, so you must keep up with the work every week. Your answers are automatically scored by Blackboard which limits the feedback we can provide, but you are welcome to use the discussion forum or to send an email when you need help. The average of quizzes for the course, counting the missed ones as zero, is 50% of your grade.

After 7 weeks, in time for a midterm progress assessment, there is a longer exam over the first half of the course. At the end of the term before the last day of classes another longer exam covers the second half of the course while also reviewing content from the semester. Each of these two longer tests is 20% of your grade. There is no comprehensive final.

Consistent engagement in this online class is a course requirement. Our expectation is that you will study the online content every week before submitting work, and we monitor your activity on the website that provides course content. You should log in and study the material there using your own ID during the week before you take the quiz, much as you would attend weekly classes in a traditional course. The content is self-paced, and may lead you to explore on your own. While you study, contribute to the discussion forum when you have a question or can offer an answer or comment for the benefit of your peers. The homework and quizzes are based on the content we provide which is intended to focus on key ideas for you to understand and retain. The textbook and other online sources have supplementary detail to explore too.

You will receive weekly reminders by email about the new material and work that is due. Always expect a homework problem and a quiz each week, with a longer test rather than a quiz at midterm and at the end of the course. These will appear on Blackboard under assignments during that time. You may check your submitted work by looking at your Grades on Blackboard where weekly scores will be posted after Blackboard or our teaching assistant reviews your work. A common error on Blackboard is to forget to submit your work after you have answered the questions we posted. We cannot read work unless it is submitted, but we will try to provide reminders when we see issues.

**This is very important** – you must fully participate in this course, that is, read and study the material, contribute to the discussion forum, answer the homework questions, take every weekly quiz, and take both longer exams. Given that, final course letter grades are approximately A (90 to 100); B (80 to 89); C (70 to 79); and D (60 to 69). We use +/- grades within 2 points of these cuts. For example, 85 would be “B”, while 82 would be “B-” and 88 would be “B+”. If you follow your grades on Blackboard, please remember how homework, quizzes and tests are weighted differently. We will provide a midterm grade assessment for you after the first test, and we may reach out to ask if you need help or to offer advice if we see an issue developing. To do well, read and study the content, participate in the discussions at least occasionally, and do not miss submitting homework and taking quizzes and tests when they are scheduled. The assignment of a letter grade based on averages of homework, quizzes and exams is contingent on participation in the class. While we will try to advise you if we see an issue with non-participation develop, it is your responsibility to study and engage in the course during the week and to be aware of the quiz and exam schedule.

## Caveats

We reserve the right to make changes in the syllabus when necessary to meet learning objectives, when new physics related discoveries occur, or when there is a technical or software issue that requires a change in content or methodology. Any changes will be announced by email and posted in the current online syllabus and schedule.

## **Title IX/Clery Act Notification**

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other non-consensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sex discrimination violate University policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain confidential support from the PEACC Program (502.852.2663), Counseling Center (502.852.6585), and Campus Health Services (502.852.6479). To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact the Dean of Students (502.852.5787) or University of Louisville Police (502.852.6111).

Disclosure to University faculty or instructors of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and instructors must forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the University's Title IX officer.

For more information, see the Sexual Misconduct Guide.

<https://louisville.edu/hr/employeerelations/sexualharassment/procedures/>

Syllabus version of January 3, 2024



## Getting Started

### What to do Weekly

- Each Monday begins a new topic for that week.
- Study content online, work through it at your own pace.
- Read the chapters or sections that are suggested in the textbook.
- Try the homework question for this week.
- Ask and answer questions on the discussion forum.
- Before the due date, usually the end of day the following Monday, complete the weekly quiz on Blackboard and upload your homework for assessment and credit.

### Longer Tests

- The first longer test on Blackboard covers the first half of the course at midterm. It is available from Saturday morning of that week through the end of day on the following Monday.
- The second longer test on Blackboard covers the second half of the course. It is available from Saturday morning of that week through the end of day on the following Monday, the last day of classes.

### Grades

You must participate in the online course content every week, ask and answer questions on the discussion group, submit your homework, take all the quizzes when they are available, and take the two longer exams. If you do, then the final course grade is based on the quizzes (50%), the homework (10%), and the two exams (20%) each.

### Reminders

The class is organized to cover new material each week, so plan your study time with the online material and participate weekly. Weekly quizzes open on Saturday morning and remain available through the due date, usually Monday at midnight. These are intended to help you review and understand the material and to keep up with the pace of the class. If you go through the online material and read the textbook selections before taking the quizzes you should do well on them, and then you will be prepared for the longer tests and retain the key ideas of the class.

## Schedule and Content

The primary content will be through links on Blackboard under **Content** that will take you to our resources. Follow the “What to do weekly” guide above, and check there first for the new material. On-line content and the textbook go together, and it may be best to begin with the on-line material which is more succinct. The content includes interactive components, the discussion forum, and homework that may help you judge your progress and problem-solving skills. There is more in the textbook than we have time to cover in class, and reading through the complete chapters would be helpful. The class website will have suggested selections linked to the online version of the text each week, as well as other web-based selections that supplement the primary content on our site.

Submit the homework on Blackboard and take the required weekly quizzes when they are available Saturday through Monday unless otherwise noted. You will receive weekly reminders about the homework and to take the quizzes and the tests for credit but your participation in the online material on the class website is also a requirement of the class.

### **January 8 - January 14** What is physics?

Chapter 1.1: An introduction

### **January 15 - January 21** Distance, time, and motion

Martin Luther King holiday on January 15 and quiz due Tuesday

Chapter 2.1: Displacement

Chapter 2.2: Vectors and coordinate systems

Chapter 2.3: Time and velocity

Chapter 2.4: Acceleration

Chapter 2.5: Motion equations, especially distance =  $\frac{1}{2} a t^2$

Chapter 2.7: Falling objects

Chapter 9.6: Forces in muscles and joints (for the figures and descriptive text)

### **January 22 - January 28** The concept of force and Newton's second law

Chapter 4.1: Force concept

Chapter 4.2: Newton's first law

Chapter 4.3: Newton's second law

Chapter 4.4: Newton's third law

Chapter 4.5: Examples of forces

Chapter 5.1: Friction

Chapter 6.5: Universal gravitation

### **January 29 - February 4** Energy

Chapter 7.1: Work

Chapter 7.2: Kinetic energy

Chapter 7.3: Gravitational potential energy

Chapter 7.6: Conservation of energy

Chapter 7.7: Power

Chapter 7.8: Human energy

Chapter 6.2: Centripetal acceleration

Chapter 6.5: Universal gravitation

Chapter 6.6: Kepler's laws

**February 5 - February 11** Momentum

- Chapter 8.1: Momentum
- Chapter 8.3: Conservation of momentum
- Chapter 8.4: Elastic collisions
- Chapter 8.5: Inelastic collisions
- Chapter 8.7: Rocket propulsion

**February 12 - February 18** Angular momentum

- Chapter 10.1: Angular acceleration
- Chapter 10.2: Rotational motion
- Chapter 10.3: Rotational inertia
- Chapter 10.4: Rotational kinetic energy
- Chapter 10.5: Angular momentum
- Chapter 10.7: Gyroscopic effects
- Chapter 9.6: Forces and torques in muscles and joints

**February 19 - February 25** Review for first test

First longer exam is from Saturday through Monday

**February 26 - March 3** Temperature and heat

- Midterm exam from last week is due Monday
- Chapter 13.1: Temperature
- Chapter 13.2: Thermal expansion
- Chapter 13.3: Ideal gas law
- Chapter 13.4: Kinetic theory of gases
- Chapter 14.1: Heat
- Chapter 14.2: Heat capacity and specific heat
- Chapter 14.3: Heat of fusion and vaporization

**March 4 - March 10** Gases, liquids, and solids

- Chapter 11.1: What is a fluid?
- Chapter 11.2: Density
- Chapter 11.3: Pressure
- Chapter 11.4: Pressure with depth
- Chapter 11.5: Pascal's principle
- Chapter 11.6: Pressure measurement (also for the previous week)
- Chapter 11.7: Archimedes' principle
- Chapter 12.1: Flow rate
- Chapter 12.2: Bernoulli's equation
- Chapter 12.5: Onset of turbulence (also for the previous week)
- Chapter 5.3: Elasticity: stress and strain

**March 11 - March 17** Spring break

There is no new content this week

**March 18 - March 24** Atoms, molecules, and entropy

Chapter 4.8: The four basic forces  
Chapter 30.2: Parts of the atom  
Chapter 30.3: Bohr's theory of the hydrogen atom  
Chapter 31.1: Nuclear radioactivity  
Chapter 30.3: Substructure of the nucleus  
Chapter 31.4: Nuclear decay and conservation laws  
Chapter 31.5: Half-life and activity  
Chapter 13.4: Kinetic theory and the gas laws  
Chapter 15.7: Statistical interpretation of entropy

**March 25 - March 31** Waves

Chapter 16.2: Oscillations  
Chapter 16.3: Simple harmonic motion  
Chapter 16.4: Pendulum  
Chapter 16.7: Damped harmonic motion  
Chapter 16.9: Waves  
Chapter 16.10: Interference  
Chapter 16.11: Energy in Waves

**April 1 - April 7** Sound

Chapter 17: Physics of hearing

**April 8 - April 14** Physics of music

Chapter 16.8: Forced oscillations and resonance  
Chapter 16.9: Waves  
Chapter 17: Physics of hearing, especially 17.5 on standing waves in air columns

**April 15 - April 21** Review for second test

Second longer exam is from Saturday through Monday  
Fundamental constants and physical law  
Uncertainty, probability, and measurement error

**April 22** Last day of classes

All course work is due today  
The course does not have a comprehensive final