PHYSICS 323 - Fall Semester 2019 - ODU

Syllabus – Modern Physics

Class Meetings: 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. - Tuesdays and Thursdays
Oceanography & Physics (OCNPS) Building Room 142

Instructor: Dr. Yuan Zhang
Assistant Professor of Physics
Office: OCNPS, Room 213
Phone: 757-683-5851 or 757-683-6671
Email: y7zhang@odu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m at Physics Learning Center, and 1 hour by appointment (just asks me after class or send email)

This is our main textbook for the course. Students are strongly urged but not required to buy it.

Grading Scheme: Homework (30%), Midterm (25%), Participation (15%), Final Exam (30%)

Grading Scale: A: 90-100%; A-: 85-90%; B+: 80-85%; B: 75-80%; B-: 70-75%; C/C+: 60-70%; D/D+ 50-60%; F <50

Blackboard Post: Notes, homework, class schedule, announcement, and others.
Solutions of homework will not be posted on the Blackboard; instead, they are handed out in class.
Goal of the Course

1. Study in depth the two revolutionary theories introduced in Physics early in the 20th century: Relativity and Quantum Mechanics. Achieve a genuine understanding of some ideas and techniques of modern physics, so you can learn how to think like a physicist.

2. Obtain a cursory overview of the main discoveries of Physics in the 20th century. The background information you obtained from this course will lay a strong foundation for your future studies in physics or other fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

Policy on Participation Point

Attending all classes will earn you a full grade on participation part, which accounts for 15% of the overall grade. Coming late or leaving early will cause you losing half of your participation point. Missing classes will cause a full point deduction, with the following cases as exception:

1. Students are given courtesy to waive their point deduction if they miss less than or equal to 2 times of classes.
2. Students who can provide “substantial” written material to prove their absence is due to extraordinary circumstances will be exempt from participation point deduction.

Even though missing no more than 2 times of classes will not cause participation point deduction, you are still highly encouraged not missing classes if you are not under the extraordinary circumstances, because the materials of this course is highly compacted so that missing one lecture will consume you a lot of time to self-study, and you will find challenging to catch up.

Policy on Classroom Etiquette

Please follow the general rules of courtesy and respect. This means: Do not come late or leave early, and while in class, concentrate fully on class work, participate actively for the full duration, and refrain from all other activities (including talking to others, using electronic devices etc.). The bottom line is: Do not disturb others in the classroom. I reserve the right to ask students to leave if they disrupt the learning experience of their classmates.

Policy on Cooperation

Students are encouraged to cooperate with each other on homework and studying. Students are also encouraged very strongly to meet with each other for regular discussions and to tackle assignments together. However, I require that each student turn in their own (hand- or computer- written) version of each homework and assignment. You must be able to demonstrate that you understand and can reproduce any solution you hand in. Also, NO cooperation is allowed on the Midterm and Final (in-class) Exams – everybody has to do ALL of the work her/himself. I consider it unethical and a violation of the honor code to copy the solution of a homework problem or an exam verbatim from another student's solution, an online source or from a book. All material used (other than informal discussions) must be properly cited. In this context, I want to remind everyone of the University policy: Any official sanction for cheating,
including the assignment of a grade of F for a quiz or for a course as a penalty for cheating, will appear on the student's permanent academic transcript.

**Accommodation Statement**
Students are encouraged to self-disclose disabilities that have been verified by the Office of Educational Accessibility by providing Accommodation Letters to their instructors early in the semester in order to start receiving accommodations. Accommodations will not be made until the Accommodation Letters are provided to instructors each semester.