Welcome to Honors Physics I. We will explore Physics in ways that let you develop your own intuition about nature. I believe that we’ll all have a lot of fun.

INSTRUCTOR: Jim Napolitano  SC 1W07  x8019  email: napolj@rpi.edu
Office Hours: Monday 2-4pm or by appointment

GRAD TA: Eli Carreiro  SC RC34  x8417  email: carree@rpi.edu
Office Hours: Monday 12-2pm (Huntington Library)

UNDERGRADS: David Drew  email: drewd2@rpi.edu
Stephanie Tomasulo  email: tomass@rpi.edu

WEB PAGE: http://www.rpi.edu/dept/phys/Courses/PHYSIHonors/

MEETINGS: Mon & Thu  Sage 5510  10:00-10:50 and 11:00-11:50
Sec. 1: Wed  SC 2C30  10:00-11:50
Sec. 2: Wed  SC 2C30  2:00-3:50

TEXTBOOK: David Halliday, Robert Resnick, and Kenneth S. Krane
Physics, Volume 1, 5th Edition
John Wiley & Sons (2001)

GRADING POLICY: Grades will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory notebook</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three mid term exams</td>
<td>3 × 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam (not optional)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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where the cutoffs for A, B, C, and D are 90, 80, 70, and 60 respectively. I may use “grade modifiers” (i.e. + or -) when entering final course grades, if that seems appropriate.

Most homework assignments are taken from the textbook, as indicated on the lecture schedule. Homework is due on the date indicated, at the start of class at 10am. Late homework cannot be accepted without prior approval from the instructor.

You are to keep a laboratory notebook for recording data, analysis, and conclusions of your experiments. We encourage you to bring the notebook to the instructor or TA’s periodically for comments, and you are to hand in your notebook part way through the course for a preliminary grade. A final grade is assigned at the conclusion of the course. Mid term and final exam grades will be scaled up (if necessary) so that the class average is approximately 75. I believe the curve makes it unfair to borderline students if the final is optional, so everyone must take the exam.

I may make adjustments to the overall grading scheme if there are special circumstances.
COURSE FORMAT

The course is taught in two parts, namely lecture/discussions and laboratories. The syllabus for each of these is available at the course web page. The lecture/discussion syllabus includes the topics we will cover, the reading assignment for that class, and the homework which is due that day. Homework is due generally on Thursday, except for weeks in which there is a midterm, when a shorter assignment is due on Monday.

The laboratory syllabus includes information on that day’s laboratory exercise (with which you should be familiar before coming to class) as well as potentially useful links. Some laboratory periods are reserved for review time prior to exams. The due dates for preliminary and final lab books are indicated.

I expect to stick to the course schedule as originally posted, but if for some reason I make some changes, I will change the posting and notify everyone through the email list.

All class periods are 110 minutes long. On lecture/discussion days, there will be a certain amount of material that I’ll want to cover, but that will never require more than an hour of lecture. I strongly encourage you to ask questions during lecture time, and we can always divert if there is something that you want to hear about or to understand in more depth. Sometimes I will come with an in-class exercise which will help you understand what it is we covered that day. If class ends early, you are welcome (in fact encouraged) to stick around and ask questions on whatever material interests you.

You are expected to take all of your data and begin some data analysis, during the laboratory class day for which the activity is assigned. We’ll encounter the inevitable problems dealing with laboratory equipment, so we may need to do some rescheduling on the fly. Do not expect to be “all done” with the laboratory exercise when you leave class. Your lab book should reflect the work you’ve done on that exercise outside of the classroom. As always, ask questions.

The mid term and final exams are open book. You are welcome to bring your textbook, notes, calculators, or other materials. You may also bring your laptop computers, but I will design the exams so that they will be of little or no use to you. The point is that you don’t need to memorize anything, but know your book and study for the exams!

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

I want you all to collaborate with each other on homework as much as possible, and to come for help during office hours, help sessions, or at any mutually convenient time. However, it is very important for me to trust that you are handing in your own work. (Just the same, it is important that you trust me to organize and teach a quality course for you.) If you want to look over the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities regarding Academic (Dis)Honesty, that might be a good idea. However, to put it simply,…

Don’t copy someone else’s homework, and don’t cheat on exams. If I suspect you of either, I will ask for an explanation. If your explanation is unsatisfactory, you will be given a grade of zero and reported to the Dean of Students. If this happens more than once, you will be given an F for the course.