

Physics 7C Fall 2008, Sections C & D Syllabus

Welcome Back to Physics 7!

This course is deliberately taught in a way to make it more consistent with what current research reveals about how students actually learn subjects like science. The lecture is not designed to function as the means by which you acquire the course content. Rather, it is to be used to provide focus and to provide a framework for your discussion/lab (DL) experience and the time you spend outside of class. Much of your learning will occur as you participate in various types of activities, experiments, and discussions in small groups and as a whole class in DL, and as you carry out the homework assignments between each DL meeting.

Lectures

Lectures are on Wednesdays in Roessler 66. Lecture A is 7:30-8:50am. Lecture B is 9-10:20am. There will be seven quizzes. The first quiz will be on October 8th.

Instructors

Khan Mahmud

mahmud@physics.ucdavis.edu

Office hours: Tuesday 4 – 5 pm, Phys/Geo 401

Marcus Afshar

mafshar@physics.ucdavis.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 2 – 3 pm, Phys/Geo 436

Email

When using e-mail, please include “Physics7C” in the subject line. Be sure to include your return email address (and your name) in the body of your message, as it often does not show up in the email header. We would prefer replying to your official UC Davis email address.

Discussion/Labs

There are eleven different DL sections for 7C, sections C & D. Each DL meeting lasts two hours and 20 minutes and meets twice each week in RSSLR 168. If you must miss a DL, you *might* be able to make it up, if there is another section still doing the same activities. You may attend another DL with the permission of the Instructor. Take a note signed by the Instructor back to your own DL Instructor at the following DL meeting. You may make-up no more than three DL meetings.

NOTE: The lab fee for Physics 7C is \$21.00 to cover the cost of materials. If you cannot pay this fee, you may be eligible for a fee waiver. Contact the Physics Office, 225 Phys/Geo, before the 20th day of instruction. Students who are Pell Grant Eligible automatically receive a fee waiver.

Learning resources

Course Text: “Physics 7C, Course Notes.” The text is available on the webpage as a PDF file.

Web page (<http://physics.ucdavis.edu/physics7>): The Physics 7C web page has some additional course material. Updates and announcements will be posted there.

Handouts: You will receive several handouts at each DL meeting.

Lecture Presentations: Periodically, additional material will be posted on the webpage.

Your Personal Learning Resource: You are responsible for organizing your notes, written materials from DL, text, lab workbook, etc., in a way that is effective for you.

Course expectations and grading: The responsibility for learning is yours!

Your course grade in Physics 7C is based primarily on your performance on the quizzes and on the final exam. Extraordinary participation in DL or lack of participation can also affect your grade, as can in-lecture clicker questions. The lowest quiz score will be dropped in determining your quiz grade. Your grade is determined by whichever method benefits you more:

50% Avg of Quizzes + 50% Final exam ± DL Grade

25% Avg of Quizzes + 75% Final exam ± DL Grade

Exams: There will be seven quizzes and a final exam. Each quiz is given during lecture, and the final exam occurs during the UCD assigned slot—in this case, Wednesday December 10th, 3:30-5:30pm. Tests are closed book and closed notes, though key equations from the material will be available on the exams. Calculators are allowed for tests unless advertised otherwise in advance.

Grading: The test questions will be graded by assigning a letter code that characterizes your response. These codes will be translated to a point value that will contribute to your final grade. A description of the meaning of the codes will be posted on the website. If, after carefully comparing what you *actually wrote* on your test question and the description of the codes, you believe the wrong code was assigned, you may request a reconsideration of the code assigned to a particular response. To do this, attach to your test the test re-grade form (available from the website). Submit these to Khan Mahmud during the lecture within one week after the return of the tests.

(Warning: Do not alter your test in any way when submitting for a regrade. Altered quizzes will be turned over to Student Judicial Affairs – No exceptions.) Note: Tests submitted for regrade are regraded in their entirety, which can result in decreased scores.

Quizzes: There will be seven quizzes, each given sometime during the lecture, each roughly 20 minutes long. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Final Exam: The final exam is on Wednesday, December 10th, 3:30pm-5:30pm. You must take the final exam at this time and day. If you cannot take the final at this time, do not take Physics 7C this session. The only exception is if taking the final at this time conflicts with observance of your religious practice – If this is the case, contact Khan Mahmud during the first week of class.

Discussion/Laboratory grading: The DL is central to the course. If you fail DL, you will fail Physics 7C. Your DL Instructor will determine your DL grade based on your preparation (consistency in completing the out-of-class assignments) and participation in the DL. Your TA will further discuss how this grade is determined. DL grades are:

HP: High pass – increases your course grade by 0.333 points (on the Registrar's standard 4-point scale). However, a high pass will not raise an "A" to an "A+." [Participation stands out as truly exceptional in DL.](#)

MP: Mid pass – increases your course grade by 0.167 points. [Participation exceeds what is expected.](#)

P: Pass – does not change your course grade. [Does everything that is expected of students in DL. A good solid record of participation.](#)

LP: Low pass – decreases your course grade by 0.333 points. [Does not meet participation expectations.](#)

U: Unsatisfactory – decreases your course grade by 1.000 points (i.e., a whole letter grade: "B-" to "C-", or "B" to "C", etc.). [Lack of participation is significant and affects the learning of other students.](#)

F: Fail the course (regardless of test and final scores). [Level of participation in DL is totally unacceptable.](#)

Note: [the majority of students receive a Pass grade in DL](#)

Attendance in DL is mandatory. With two DL absences, your highest DL grade is a Low Pass. With three DL absences, your highest DL grade is Unsatisfactory. Four or more DL absences is totally unacceptable and you will fail Physics 7C. Low Passes and Unsatisfactory grades will also be given for chronic tardiness, leaving early, lack of active participation, incomplete homework, and behavior that contributes negatively to the productive functioning of the small groups.

Academic dishonesty: Cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating of any form is always immediately reported to Student Judicial Affairs for appropriate action. We appreciate any suggestions you may have to help us reduce the temptations and opportunities of academic dishonesty.