

Course Information for summer physics classes at Florissant Valley

Course: SUMMER 2009 Individualized Instruction - Please read carefully - all of this information is very important

Important Information:

1. **BE SURE TO SIGN IN ON THE FIRST DAY** – Failure to do so could get you withdrawn from your class for non-attendance.
2. A link to the information specific to your course is on the department web page users.stlcc.edu/cburkhardt

Important announcements and additional information will be posted on this webpage so check it OFTEN

2. **CHECK YOUR ROSTER NUMBER** - There is a list of names on the back bulletin board in SM-252 – Find your name and roster number on this list. File folders with roster numbers on them are in the file cabinets in the front of the lab. Graded material is returned to your file folder. You turn material in to be graded by giving it to the instructor in the lab,

DO NOT TURN MATERIAL IN BY PUTTING IT IN YOUR FOLDER – YOU MUST GIVE IT TO THE LAB ATTENDENT AT THE FRONT DESK!

3. **GET STARTED ON YOUR LAB WORK RIGHT AWAY** – There are two labs due to be done the first week, and the week is short, get started right away.

Grading:

The final grade you receive for this course will be computed in the following manner:

BEST 3 OF 4 TEST GRADES 60%

LAB GRADE 20%

FINAL EXAM 20%

The usual grade distribution is as follows:

90%-100%..... A

80%-90%..... B

65%-80%..... C

50%-65%..... D

0%-50%..... F The instructor reserves the right to alter this grade distribution but only in favor of the student.

Grades of PR, I, U are not awarded.

Last day to withdraw without a grade is July 17, 2009

Tests:

You are required to take tests in this course according to the test schedule. You must therefore move at an average rate that will permit you to complete the course materials prior to taking the exams. Tests will contain problems similar to those you have worked in your problem assignments, as well as questions involving symbols, definitions, concepts, laws, principles, and derivations. You will be asked to recall these concepts and laws and to work problems which use these laws. You may use one 3 X 5 card as a formula card for each test and all four cards for the final exam.

On test days, you may take the exam at any time between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM in the room posted. You must be done by closing time, otherwise the tests are un-timed. The instructors will be busy monitoring tests on test days, and will not be available for problem help. Be sure to get help on the problem assignments before test day.

Since 1 test score is dropped NO make up tests will be given FOR ANY REASON.

Final Exam:

The final exam is a comprehensive examination. For this exam, you may bring all four of the formula cards used in previous tests. Other than in length, the final exam will be similar in style to the one hour tests.

Lab Work:

No make up laboratory experiments will be given FOR ANY REASON. Because of this, the lowest lab grade will be dropped from consideration when the final course grade is computed. **All lab reports MUST be entirely your own work. Due to the severe time constraints over the summer - the labs MUST be completed during the dates given on your course schedule - absolutely no exceptions will be made to this rule so don't ask.**

More detailed information regarding lab reports will be posted on the internet.

THE OPEN LABORATORY AT FLORISSANT VALLEY

The open laboratory in physics has been initiated as a special service to our physics students. The physics laboratory is open from 9:00am until 9:00pm - Monday through Thursday - in addition to 9:00 am to noon on Saturday; but is otherwise unscheduled. Laboratory stations will be set up for one week only! **NO DATA MAY BE COLLECTED AFTER THE WEEK ASSIGNED ON THE SCHEDULE EVEN IF THE REPORT HAS NOT BEEN TURNED IN. Before leaving the laboratory, after data has been collected, you MUST have the laboratory instructor who witnessed your data collection initial this data to verify that you collected this data in our laboratory.** Late reports are NOT accepted. In the event that school is closed or class is canceled, lab reports will be due on the next class day. Lab reports are turned into the file folders in the file cabinet in the lab. All students are assigned numbers at the start of the semester and graded material is returned to the folders in the cabinet.

INTRODUCTION

SUMMER INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION

This course is being conducted under a form of instruction called individualized instruction. You should follow the accompanying syllabus, step-by-step, until completing the course. For example, if you are enrolled in a 4 credit hour course, you should plan on spending up to 6 hours per week doing laboratory assignments and a minimum of 10 additional hours per week studying your physics assignments. Physics courses can be time consuming, be sure to allow sufficient time in your schedule to successfully complete your course.

TEST SCHEDULE

You will note that a schedule of tests and a schedule of lab assignments is available for your course on the internet at users.stlcc.edu/cburkhardt. All syllabus steps preceding the test as well as all lab assignments should be completed prior to taking the test. This will help you schedule the rate at which you must proceed.

SYLLABUS : READING ASSIGNMENTS

For the reading assignments, you should study the text or reference carefully, taking notes, writing down questions about things you do not understand, marking your text for reference to important concepts, fundamental relationships, or places that are not fully understood. Then come to SM252 during any of our scheduled hours to ask questions and get help. The physics

faculty is your most important resource, be sure to make use of them! We want you to come in, and you should feel free to ask about anything you do not understand. We do expect you to read the material first, however, and your questions should be as specific as possible. (Questions like: "I don't understand anything!" --show that one has not yet really made an effort.)

SYLLABUS : PROBLEM ASSIGNMENTS

At the highest level is the ability to relate principles, laws, concepts and definitions to solve real problems. You learn to solve such problems by attacking many of them. You will develop different methods for different kinds of problems. You probably learn more from the efforts you spend on problems you are never able to solve than you do from those you can solve, so do not be discouraged when problems are difficult.

You should attempt to work every problem and answer every question assigned. You will have trouble with many of them. If you did not, there would not be much point assigning them to you. Do not spend too much time on any one problem before getting help. Read a problem; write down exactly what information is given; determine what is to be found; then try to find an appropriate relationship in which to use the "given" and "find" information. When you are stumped on a problem, go on to another one until you can come in to get help from an instructor. We will help you with your problems, not by working them for you but by giving you hints until you can finally work them out for yourself. We are in the lab to be of assistance to you. Please take advantage of our help. The greatest portion of the exams will consist of questions or problems which are directly related to assigned problems. The assigned problems are not to be turned in, but should be retained as a study aid for exams.

LAB ASSIGNMENTS

The lab is a required part of your course and is therefore not optional. You must do every assigned lab experiment. Failure to complete and turn in 75% of the assigned labs will result in a failing grade for the course, no matter what your test scores are. . You may come to the lab to do an experiment or get help on assigned problems any time during the scheduled open hours. Most of the experiments do not require a lab partner and we encourage you to work alone. NO experiment may be done in groups larger than three, and all experiments must be performed during the week in which they are assigned. Even if your report is not due to be turned in until the latter part of the following week, no data for that experiment may be collected during that second week.

When you do an experiment, record all data and observations carefully on a DATA SHEET. When you finish collecting data and before leaving the lab, hand your data sheet to the instructor who witnessed your work for his initials. Failure to have data sheets initialed will result in a grade of "0" for that assignment. Whenever possible, you should analyze your data and obtain results while you are still in the lab. A schedule of lab assignments is included with the syllabus for your course. Some experiments may be provided in a handout.

TESTS AND GRADES

You are required to take tests in this course according to the test schedule provided on the internet. There may be updates to this schedule so check it often. You must therefore move at an average rate that will permit you to complete the course materials prior to taking the exams. Tests will contain problems similar to those you have worked in your problem assignments, as well as questions involving symbols, definitions, concepts, laws, principles, and derivations. You

will be asked to recall these concepts and laws and to work problems which use these laws. You may use one 3 X 5 card as a formula card for each test and all four cards for the final exam.

On test days, the instructors will be busy monitoring tests, and will not be available for problem help. Be sure to get help on the problem assignments before test day.

In computing your average test grade, the results of your lowest test will be ignored, the average being done on one less than the total tests given. If you miss a test you will receive a grade of "0" for that test, but since the lowest test score is dropped it will not affect your grade. **NO MAKE UP TESTS OR LABORATORY ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY REASON.** Your instructor will provide you with details on how your final grade will be determined.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Room SM252 may be used as a study area and you are encouraged to use it. You are encouraged to come to the lab for as long and as frequently as you like. Since, after the orientation meeting, there are no formal meetings, your instructor will communicate with you by placing notes on the blackboard at the front of the lab. It is your responsibility to check the board often

Your graded lab reports and tests will be returned to you by means of a file system located next to the door in SM252. The file is arranged by "ROSTER #". You will be assigned a Roster # early in the semester. Every lab report and test that you turn in should contain that ROSTER NUMBER. Everything in your file is yours; please remove it often so that the file does not become overfull.

Physics is generally considered to be a difficult subject. Because of the short summer session, it is more than twice as difficult as in the spring and fall semesters. Get started right away and try not to fall behind. Remember that your instructor is anxious to help you succeed in your study of Physics, so ask for help whenever you need it.

ADA STATEMENT:

If any student in this class has a need for a special testing arrangement, note-taking assistance or other accommodations because of a documented disability, please feel free to discuss this with me privately. The college has professionals to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. The ACCESS Office (513-4551) will evaluate and approve your accommodation needs.

HAVE FUN, AND GOOD LUCK!