

**PHYSICS 5C**  
**Topics**

revision 8/26/19

*“Plans are useless, but planning is essential.”*  
—Dwight D. Eisenhower

Lectures will be held **Tue/.Thu.** 9:30–11 am (2 LeConte). Discussion sections are currently scheduled for Tue. 4–6 pm (122 Barrows) and Wed. 2–4 pm (136 Barrows)

**Week 1: Course Logistics and Overview**

course policies; thematic overview

**Week 2: Segue from Classical to Quantum: Waves**

M 09/02

*NATIONAL HOLIDAY* (Labor Day)

wave equation; polarization ; double-slit experiment

*(discussion sections will meet beginning in Week 2....)***Week 3: Birth of Quantum Mechanics**photoelectric effect; Compton scattering; blackbody radiation;  
Bohr model of Hydrogen**Week 4: matter waves**complex exponentials; deBroglie waves; Davisson-Germer and  
Franck-Hertz; dispersion relations; phase and group velocity**Week 5: 1D, time-independent Schrodinger equation**particle-in-a-box; harmonic oscillator; sketching solutions; Bohr-  
Sommerfeld quantization rules**Week 6: more on Schrodinger wave mechanics**superposition; Born rule; operators and expectation values;  
stepwise potentials;; reflection and transmission**Week 7: time-dependence**

time-dependent Schrodinger equation, Fourier transforms; wave packets

**Week 8: yet more quantum mechanics**spin and polarization; 3D Schrodinger equation; angular momentum and  
hydrogen atom**Midterm #1** tentatively scheduled for 7:00 – 9:10 pm, Wednesday 10/16

**Week 9: fundamentals of thermodynamics**

energy, pressure, temperature; states and processes  
heat capacity; thermometry and calorimetry

**Week 10: Laws of thermodynamics**

Three (or four) laws of thermodynamics. entropy;  
exact versus inexact differentials; reversible and irreversible processes

**Week 11: ideal gases**

ideal gas equations of state and processes; kinetic theory; Maxwell-Boltzmann  
distribution; van der Waals equation of state and non-ideal gases.

**Week 12: cyclic processes and heat engines**

M 11/11

*NATIONAL HOLIDAY (Veteran's Day)*

Carnot cycle, otto cycle, Rankine cycle, etc; engines and refrigerators  
efficiency and coefficient

**Week 13: phase diagrams and phase changes**

phases, phase transformations, phase diagrams, coexistence  
triple point and critical points; latent heat; super-heating and cooling

**Midterm #2** 7:00–9:10 pm Wednesday 11/16,

Both midterms are scheduled during additional evening sessions to allow extra time....

**Week 14: statistical mechanics**

microstates and macrostates; statistical descriptions

W 11/27

*Thanksgiving Recess (no work)*

F 11/29

*Thanksgiving Recess (perhaps some dissipation)*

**Week 15: more statistical mechanics**

statistical notions of temperature and entropy  
canonical ensemble; partition function; blackbody radiation

**Week 16: RRR Week (we will meet during both lecture and discussion sections)**

people's choice: Maxwell's demon, EPR paradox, many-worlds, etc.

**Week 17: EXAM PERIOD**

T 12/17

3:00–6:10 pm FINAL EXAMINATION (2 LeConte)

The final exam will definitely be cumulative, but will tend to emphasize material subsequent to the midterms as well as key themes, ideas, tools, and models from throughout the semester.

---

FT = French & Taylor  
G = Goodstein  
BB = Blundell and Blundell  
F = Feynman Lectures  
S = Shankar

Specific required, recommended, and suggested reading will be listed on weekly problem sets, Electronic reading all other reading will be posted or distributed online via *bCourses*.

---

*\*This syllabus is tentative and subject to revision based on our perceived progress, backgrounds of and feedback from students, or my whim or random fluctuation*