University of California, Berkeley, Department of Physics

Physics 7A Lecture 2 and 3 Course Information Sheet, Spring 2021

Instructor	Lecture	Head GSI
Prof. Alex Zettl	Tuesday and Thursday	Nick Cinko
	8:00am-9:30am (Lecture 2)	**Email:** ncinko@berkeley.edu
Email: azettl@berkeley.edu	11:00am-12:30pm (Lecture 3)	**Zoom office hours:** by appointment
Zoom office hours: TuTh 9:40-11am (or by appointment)	Lectures are identical and asynchronous.	

Prerequisites: MATH 1A is a prerequisite. MATH 1B should be taken concurrently.

Texts:

- **Required texts** include a textbook, workbook, and online homework access. The textbook is D. C. Giancoli, *Physics for Scientists and Engineers*, Volume 1 (custom edition for the University of California, Berkeley), 4th edition. Older editions of Giancoli are acceptable. The workbook is by Birkett and Elby.The online homework access is called Mastering Physics, and you will need the Course ID: **cinko97480**.
- **Suggested texts** include Elby, Portable TA: Problem Solving Guide, Volume 1.

Additional Course Information:

- https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1502674 is the dedicated **main b-courses website** for announcements and resources for this course. Please stay up to date on everything through this site!
- See the "FAQ" on the b-course website for more information.

GSI office hours: Lab/Discussion GSI will have regularly scheduled Zoom office hours. Please see the GSI Office Hour schedule on b-courses.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

First two weeks of class: You must attend ALL of your discussion and laboratory (DL) sections during the first two weeks of class or you may be dropped from the course. This includes DL sections that meet before the first lecture. You must attend the section you are enrolled in on CalCentral, and unfortunately we **cannot help you switch sections**; we have no access to, or influence over, the CalCentral scheduling system.
Drop deadline: This is an **Early Drop Deadline** course: the deadline to drop is **Friday, January 29**, at midnight. DO NOT assume that we can or will automatically drop you from the course if you do not attend Sections; we will not. It is your responsibility to drop the course before the deadline. If you have not dropped the course by the early drop deadline, you will continue to be enrolled and you WILL receive an appropriate grade in the course.
Course policies: It is your responsibility to read, understand, and abide by all course policies listed in this document AND on the course website, and to keep up with all announcements. Contact the Head GSI at the above email address with any administrative issues or questions, and **include your name and section number in the email**. (Messages without this information will be ignored!) Please read this entire document and consult the course webpages *before* emailing with questions.

Course grades will be determined by the following weighting:

Midterm 1	Midterm 2	Final Exam	Homework	Lab/Quiz
20%	20%	35%	15%	10%

Since we are in a remote learning semester, there will **not be a curve** for the final grade distribution. We may use the historical pre-COVID grading bins as an upper-bound guideline for the number grade-to-letter grade conversion. We may choose to expand the bins, but only in your favor.

In the old/curved grading guidelines with a curve, instructors were limited by University Policy in the number of As and Bs they could assign. This meant students were effectively competing with each other. These restrictions have now been temporarily removed. If a large portion of the class does what we consider A level work, every student in that category will receive an A.

If you choose to take this class **Pass/Not Pass**, a grade of C- (C minus) or higher is considered a Pass (P) and a grade of D+ or lower is considered a Not Pass (NP).

The grade of D or F will likely be given to a small percentage of students displaying especially poor performance. A grade of "**Incomplete**" will only be given under dire circumstances beyond a student's control, and only when work already completed is of at least C quality.

Exams: There will be two midterm examinations and a final exam. Exams will be open book, open notes. **Your work on the exams must be an individual effort, i.e. seeking help from other individuals or from on-line resources or services during the exam is prohibited.** Dates and times are listed below. Exams cannot be rescheduled and must be taken at the scheduled time. Anyone with an unresolvable conflict with exam dates (like another pre-scheduled exam in a different class) must contact the Head GSI immediately. Details about the on-line exams (review sessions, etc.) will be announced via the course website.

Midterm 1 (Lecture 2 & 3)	Midterm 2 (Lecture 2 & 3)	Final (Lecture 2)	Final (Lecture 3)
2/23 7-9 PM	4/6 7-9 PM	5/13 7-10 PM	5/13 8-11 AM

Homework: Mastering Physics is the online homework system for the course, and all homework will be submittedthrough that system. **Homework is due at 10pm each Friday,** and **late homework will not be accepted**. We will drop your lowest two homework scores, but no other excuses or extensions will be allowed.

Lab Section: Labs are **required**, in addition to being worth 10% of your semester grade. Each missing lab will reduce your semester grade by 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g. B+ to B), and **you will automatically fail the course if you miss more than 2 labs**. If you have **advance** notice of needing to miss a lab section, or are ill/unable to attend, see the FAQ on the course website about rescheduling or making up labs.

Discussion Section: Although attendance and participation in discussion section is not factored explicitly into your grade, we do expect students to attend and participate in discussions. Learning physics means *doing* physics, and discussion sections are a chance for you to *do* physics – to practice solving problems, talk about concepts, and grapple with the course material in as many ways as possible. Indeed, at the end of the semester your Lab/Discussion GSI will have the opportunity to put in a good word for you on your active participation in discussions. This could boost your course grade if you are on the borderline!

Links to Lectures and Lab/Discussion Sections:
Due to the ongoing pandemic, all aspects of this course will be held remotely. Up-to-date links for recorded lectures, labs, and discussion sections can be found on the bCourses site.

Lectures will be recorded asynchronously before the scheduled lecture time and we plan on uploading the recordings by 8am of the scheduled lecture day. Lectures for sections 2 and 3 are identical. Lectures will be posted to Zoom and Kaltura; there may be other access links as well. Once a lecture is posted, you may view it anytime (doesn't have to be during your scheduled lecture time). Although some Zoom links have a limited lifetime (e.g. 30 days), we will insure that at least one web-link will remain active and "archival" until the end of the semester for all lectures. It is highly recommended that you view the lectures on their release dates. It is all too easy to miss a lecture and think that you can "catch up later". **Don't fall behind on lectures!** Note that Prof. Zettl often links exam problems to his lectures. Some exam problems will be impossible to solve without knowledge gained only in lecture.

Piazza: https://piazza.com/berkeley/spring2021/phys7alec002003
Piazza is a service that lets students ask questions that GSIs or other students can then answer. This is great for asking questions about the homework and we highly recommend you use it! We have turned on the setting that allows you to post questions and responses either publicly, anonymously to your classmates but not to the instructors, or anonymously to all so that you feel more comfortable asking and answering questions.

GSIs will monitor Piazza and may post answers directly on Piazza, though GSIs will typically wait a few hours to give your peers a chance to contribute to the discussion and share what they've learned. We will strive to address comments within a 24-hour period during the week but will typically not be active on weekends or academic holidays. Note that Prof. Zettl will not personally monitor Piazza.

We consider this forum to be an academic space and you are expected to follow the Berkeley Honor Code and be respectful of each other.

Accommodations: The Disabled Students' Program (DSP) is committed to ensuring that all students with disabilitieshave equal access to educational opportunities at UC Berkeley. If you need individualized services or accommodations for exams or other aspects of this course; if you have emergency medical information you wish to share with the instructor; or if you need special arrangements, please inform the professor and the head GSI immediately. We may need several weeks before the scheduled exams to make appropriate arrangements, so please contact us as soon as possible.

Intellectual honesty: The student body of UC Berkeley has adopted the following **Honor Code**. "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." Every student must adhere to this code. See https://teaching.berkeley.edu/berkeley-honor-code. You must also abide by the **Student Code of Conduct**, http://sa.berkeley.edu/code-of-conduct. Cheating on exams will absolutely not be tolerated.

Reviewing lecture and reading materials, working practice problems, and studyingfor exams can be enjoyable and enriching things to do with fellow students. This is recommended. However, when you submit an answer to Mastering Physics or an assignment to your GSI, you are stating that the answer/solution is your own work and not copied from a book, website, friend, or other animate or inanimate source. All exams (including quizzes) are to be independent efforts as well; collaboration or help from outside sources during the exam is considered **cheating** and will result in disciplinary action (**automatic F in the course and expulsion from the University**).

Mental health and other resources: Remote learning and the pandemic have introduced a lot more stress and challenges into the student experience. Please take care of yourself and prioritize your physical and mental health. The following links may be of use if you are in trouble:

CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) Website: https://uhs.berkeley.edu/caps
CAPS COVID-19 Website: https://uhs.berkeley.edu/coronavirus/student-mental-health
Helping a Distressed Friend: https://uhs.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/distressed_friend.pdf
Student Advocates Office: https://advocate.berkeley.edu/
Division of Student Affairs COVID-19 Toolkit: https://sa.berkeley.edu/covid19
Student Technology Equity Program: https://technology.berkeley.edu/STEP
UC Berkeley Basic Needs Guide to COVID-19:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WwPF-Q3Z8EXBfM-Wf_WwBzdTU39hfz85JL2F8Z5IfDE/edit?usp=sharing

Some final words of advice: If you are in trouble (behind in homework, doing worse in the course than you would like, etc.) for whatever reason, please let us know. We'll try to help! Additional help is available through the Student Learning Center (Golden Bear Center), the Honors Society, the Society of Physics Students, and the Physics ScholarsProgram. Inquire in the Physics Department Undergraduate Student Services Office (368 LeConte Hall) for further information. **There is quite a lot of material in this course, and not a lot of time to learn it. There are many resources available to help you. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of them.**