

Physics 7B Course Information - Spring 2018

Lecture 3 Information Lectures: MWF, 1-2 pm, 1 LeConte starting 1/17

Catherine Bordel Office hours: Tu, 2-3 pm in 395 LeConte starting 1/22
cbordel@berkeley.edu Th, 1-2 pm in 395 LeConte

First two weeks: You must attend ALL your discussion/laboratory (D/L) sections during the first two weeks of class to remain enrolled, including the DS scheduled before the first lecture. If, on the contrary, you want to drop the class, it is YOUR responsibility to do it before the drop deadline, otherwise you will have to complete the course. **The Drop Deadline is Friday 01/26.** Please contact Kathy Lee <kathyl@berkeley.edu> in Student Services (368 LeConte) for more detailed enrollment information.

Course WWW URL: Once you are registered in the class, you should have access to the course website on bCourses (<https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/>). The site contains course information and I will be posting practice exams there along with other useful information when the time comes. Make sure your email address is correct, as we will sometimes be distributing information through bCourses mailings.

Head Graduate Student Instructor: Hunter Burroughs <h.r.burroughs@berkeley.edu>
7B Course Center: 107 LeConte Hall

Additional help is available through the Student Learning Center (Golden Bear Center), the Honors Society, the Society of Physics Students, and the Physics Scholars Program. Inquire in the Physics Department Undergraduate Student Services Office (368 LeConte Hall) for further information.

Required Material:

- D. C. Giancoli, *Physics for Scientists and Engineers*, Volume 2, 4th edition.
- *7B Workbook*, by Hedeman.
- *MasteringPhysics* packet
- *i-clicker* (any model)

Readings: Reading the textbook and working problems is very important. Be prepared for lecture and section by reading the assigned material in advance. Lectures and sections both assume that some of the basic material has been learned from the text already.

Teaching/learning philosophy:

As the instructor, my point is not only to teach you some physics, but also to teach you how to develop some skills like thinking critically, acquiring a logical thought process and focusing on the concepts more than applying some recipes.

For you students, it is crucial to realize that your academic performance is actually enhanced if you cultivate the following mindset: **curiosity, desire to learn, tenacity and interactions with your peers.**

Lectures: Lectures are meant to present the course material, but it doesn't mean that you should be passively taking notes without thinking. **In order to make sure that you process the information during class time and remain intellectually stimulated, I will give i-clicker questions on a regular basis, which will count toward your participation grade.** I therefore recommend that you read the material beforehand and I encourage you to ask questions during lectures! Because of the amount of material that needs to be covered, the number of examples covered in lecture will be limited, so discussion/lab meetings and homework are essential to your understanding of the material. **You are responsible for the registration of your i-clicker on bCourses (i>clicker registration tab).**

Discussion/Laboratory (D/L) Sections: You must be registered in DIS and LAB sections with the same number (e.g. DIS 303 & LAB 303). Some D/L meetings will be discussions and some will be laboratory sessions, but the sections always meet twice a week for two hours. The lab schedule is shown on the syllabus. If you wish to change discussion sections, you have to make an official change through CalCentral. If you cannot find any available spot, you can seek someone in the class with whom to switch

(see "section policy" document). **Attending D/L sections plays a huge part in your understanding of the material**, as sections provide an opportunity to work in smaller groups, ask more/deeper questions, discuss areas you are uncertain of, improve your problem-solving and writing skills. Quizzes will be given by your GSI in discussion sections and will be part of your overall grade. **You are responsible for the material presented in D/L sections. You must attend ALL your registered discussion sections during the first 2 weeks -or you may be dropped from the course- and the labs are mandatory.**

You will receive a zero for any missed lab and no lab score will be dropped. Because the Physics Department and Engineering Schools take seriously the classification of this class as laboratory-based, **you will not pass if you have more than 1 unexcused lab. Note that whenever there is no scheduled lab, both meetings are discussions.**

Make-up labs: If you miss a lab session, you must make it up in another lab section that week, and turn it in to *your* GSI at the next meeting (see "section policy" document). There will be no make-ups at the end of the semester.

Homework: **Working on homework problems is key to your in-depth understanding of the course material. Homework is mandatory**, including the first assignment due on 1/19 that is for practice only, and consists in a weekly problem set assigned via the online homework program Mastering Physics (class ID is MPBORDEL50650). **Each HW assignment will be due on Friday at 11pm, and the lowest HW score will be dropped. For each HW problem, be it for credit or for practice only, I encourage you to write down neat and detailed solutions in a notebook, in a logical and organized manner, as expected on an exam.**

Exams: There will be 2 midterm examinations and a final examination on
Wednesday, 2/21/18, 155 Dwinelle, 7-9 PM (2 hr exam)
Monday, 4/2/18, Dwinelle 145 & GPBB 100, 7-9 pm (2 hr exam)
Tuesday, 5/8/18, location TBA, 8-11 am (3 hr exam)

A Cal ID with your picture is required at all exams, and more details regarding the topics covered will be posted before each exam.

Academic honesty: We encourage you to work with your fellow students when appropriate. Any form of cheating will be treated very severely, most likely by your failing the entire course and by referral to Student Judicial Affairs: <http://students.berkeley.edu/uga/conduct.asp>.

Grades: Your attendance and active participation in all parts of the course is expected. **You are responsible for all information presented in lectures, D/L sections and HW assignments.** Grades will be determined from a weighting of all the elements as follows:

MT1: 21% ; MT2: 21% ; FINAL: 30% ; LABS: 7% ; HW: 7% ; QUIZZES: 7% ; PARTICIPATION: 7%

Your numerical score will be used to assign a course letter grade for the class, with two exceptions discussed below. The mapping of ranges of numerical scores to letter grades (A,B,C,D,F) will reflect our judgment as to what percentages correspond to various degrees of demonstrated performance and learning, based on our overall assessment of all assignments, their difficulty, and their weights.

When taking a class pass/no-pass (P/NP), a *P* grade corresponds to the equivalent of a *C-* grade or above. Out of the desire to maintain the high standards for education at the University of California, and fairness and meaningfulness of grades, the University and Physics Department have established "strongly recommended" guidelines for the distribution of A's, B's, and C's in any one course. For lower-division, non-honors courses like Physics 7B, the recommendations are as follows: 25% A+/A/A-, 40% B+/B/B-, and 35% C+ or below. Note that the letter grade will only be assigned at the very end of the semester, after calculating the weighted average.

A course grade of "Incomplete" will only be considered under circumstances beyond a student's control, and only when these circumstances have prevented the student from completing certain assignments, not just because performance suffered, and then, according to official university policy, only when work already completed is of at least "C" quality or better.

In the event of personal issues affecting your academic performance, or if you are falling behind, PLEASE talk to me as soon as possible.

There are many resources available to help you, so we strongly encourage you to take advantage of them. Also, keep in mind that working with your peers and providing explanations to other students is an excellent way of improving your understanding of the course material.