

HONORS PHYSICS 517
TEACHERS: MR. BELLOF AND MR. WELTER
FALL/SPRING 2008-2009
INFORMATION ON GRADING AND SUCCEEDING

This course provides a detailed and comprehensive study of space and time measurement, optics and waves, electricity, magnetism, energy, and atomic structure. Course work demands a high level of mathematical rigor.

GRADING PROCEDURE

PERFECT SCORE DEFINITION: The average of the top 10 students' scores. After the PERFECT SCORE has been calculated, grades will be determined as follows:

GRADING SCALE
A ... 90 %
B ... 75 %
C ... 65 %
D ... 60 %

Half of your grade will result from points earned on tests and the other half will result from homework assignments (problem notebooks and lab reports) and homework-checks (unannounced checks of homework to verify effort, therefore no make-ups allowed). You may raise your grade up to 10 % of the perfect score using honors assignments (big EC), regular EC's, and free points.

The semester exam will count as 20% of the final grade.

The **majority** of honors physics students receive "A's" on report cards. It is interesting to note that the highest grades usually go to the hardest workers; therefore, most honors physics students earn their grades by **working** rather than by simply being smart.

SUCCESS INPHO*

NEED PHOR CLASS: Textbook (when instructed; otherwise keep at home), 3-ring binder w/notebook paper, an 8½ " x 11" spiral notebook (this notebook is for **PHYSICS PROBLEMS ONLY**), pencils & eraser, 6-in-1, graph paper and calculator.

REQUIRED TEXT/MEDIA:

- Physics by Douglas Giancoli
- Physics Cinema Classics

SUBSTITUTE STUDENT: Each student is to choose at least one other student to look after his/her interests on those occasions when you are absent. This person should take notes for you, collect handouts, tell you what to turn in, help you make up your

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work, etc. I will give your substitute student EXTRA CREDIT for spending time making up labs with you. **DO NOT** request handouts after the beginning of class!

ABSENCES: On those rare occasions when circumstances totally beyond your control force you to be absent from class, you should find out what happened in class and get missed papers from your substitute student, and get him/her to help you make up your lab and class work. I will **THEN** be **MOST HAPPY** to help you make up your work!

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Late assignments are those that are turned in after I have asked for and collected them. Late assignments are **NOT** accepted for full credit, except for excused absences, prearrangements with me, or for emergencies (parent note required).

CHEATING: Students are encouraged to work together, but this does not give them permission to copy. If your paper looks too much like another student's paper, both students will receive a zero on that assignment. **YOU SHOULD NOT WRITE ANSWERS ON YOUR PAPER WHILE LOOKING AT ANOTHER STUDENT'S PAPER. LOOK FIRST, IF YOU NEED HELP FROM ANOTHER STUDENT, THEN WRITE YOUR ANSWER WITHOUT EVER AGAIN LOOKING AT THE OTHER STUDENT'S PAPER.** It is very unlikely that papers will "look alike" if this advice is followed, therefore students will be penalized for cheating if their papers "look alike." In English class they call it plagiarism and **YOU ARE ADVISED TO PARAPHRASE.** Those that don't paraphrase will be penalized. You have now been informed!! It is also cheating to use notes from a former physics student - it's an unfair advantage and the educational disadvantages outweigh the advantages. You have now been informed!! Believe me: it will be obvious to me if you do this...

e-mail HELP: keith.bellof@d214.org OR mark.welter@d214.org We check email regularly, if you send an e-mail late in the evening, you will usually have a response before school the next day.

WEBSITE: <http://phs.d214.org>, then follow the links to the Physics page. Assignment sheets, calendars, Honors Problems and hints throughout the year will be posted on this website. Bookmark it and check it often.

***Substitution of ph for f is sometimes intentional!**