Schedule

Our schedule for the semester is to finish the first part of the book by covering approximately one chapter per week. This is a large amount of material, and you should spend time each day working problems, reading the book and the online notes, and reviewing your own notes.

Homework

You are free to work in groups on your homework assignments, but you should be careful not to use the group as a crutch. When you’re taking a quiz or test, there won’t be anyone there to help, and you’ll have to rely on your own understanding. Homework will be assigned and graded via WebAssign. You will need to purchase a key online at www.webassign.net or at the bookstore. Your account name will be your first initial + last name (jsmith for John Smith – all lowercase), your institution is armstrong, and your password will be the same as your username. Change your password immediately. If you have problems with the WebAssign site, let me know right away.

You should print a copy of your homework while you are solving it. If you have waited until the last minute before the homework is due and your internet connection goes down, you can still work the problems on your printed copy and bring them to class that morning for a grade (this should happen once or less in a semester!). Otherwise, you will get no credit for the assignment.

Working problems is extremely important in any physics class. Although WebAssign would make it possible, I’m not going to assign a huge volume of problems. You are advised to work as many problems as you can – you’ll soon see that there can be a big difference between following along in class and being able to do problems on your own (during a test). There will be no extensions or makeups for homeworks.

Attendance

When you arrive, please turn off your cell phones, computers and all other electronics, and put newspapers, etc. away. I do not want to see your phone during class – no texting, calling, etc. You should bring an ordinary scientific calculator (about $10 most places) to class and especially to the tests. I will clear the memory of all programmable calculators before each test. Sometime before the first test, make sure you have brought your calculator to me so I’ll know how to do that and you’ll be able to use it during your test.

The lecture and lab portions of the course are blended together in an effort to have a smoother integration between these parts. This means that we will probably not have a solid schedule of what lab or activity we’ll be doing every day this semester. I can give you estimates of when things will happen, but there’s going to be uncertainty attached to those estimates. For that reason, I would advise you to attend each class. One lab exercise will be dropped, but beyond that, they will start adversely affecting your grade. You should expect to be in class the entire time every day; if
we happen to finish early, that’s a bonus. When we are doing a lab, anyone leaving early (even with permission from his/her fellow group members) should expect a disproportionately large penalty on his/her portion of that lab.

Labs will typically occur at the beginning of a given class period. Because arriving late is both inconsiderate and unfair to the rest of your group members, you will lose 1 point (out of a possible grade of 10) if you are less than 10 minutes late. From 10-19 minutes late, you will lose two points, three from 20-29, etc.

**Honor Code**

The AASU Honor Code (found in the student handbook) will be strictly upheld. Any violations or attempted violations will receive the harshest punishment allowed, including but not limited to a grade of F for the course. Plagiarism, which is defined as using someone else’s words or ideas (i.e., paraphrasing) without proper attribution, is an honor code violation. DO NOT try this! It is assumed that anything in your lab report that is not credited was written by you and/or your group members whose names appear on the front page. This applies to information from the Internet as well as all other sources. Submitting a report for which you have already received a grade (e.g., in a previous semester, etc.) is also not allowed.

**Tests and Grading**

As of this writing, there will be three tests, the lowest of which will be dropped (others worth 20% each), a final exam worth 25%, in-class exercises and lab reports for 25%, and an undetermined number of homework assignments for the remaining 10%. The tests will be approximately evenly spaced throughout the semester. If you must miss a test, you must **contact me as soon as possible** to schedule a makeup exam. While you aren’t required to attend class, your excuse must cover the time from the original exam date until you return to class ready to take the makeup. Keep in mind that the make-up test will almost certainly be harder than the original test; I tend to put the most straightforward questions possible on the main test, and the ones on make-up tests are therefore usually more complicated.

For the reports associated with lab exercises, you can get an idea of what is expected from the information at [http://www.chemphys.armstrong.edu/baird/Lab.reports.pdf](http://www.chemphys.armstrong.edu/baird/Lab.reports.pdf). You should rotate the report-writing and make sure that each group member has a copy of all data as well as a copy of the finished report. **Error analysis is a large part of the report.**

Note that you start the class at zero points and work your way up; for that reason, any withdrawal before midterm would have to be “while failing” as it will take most of the semester to have the opportunity to earn enough points to pass. If this is the first time you have taken a physics course at AASU, you will have three weeks after the first day of class to request a “W”. After that point, or after drop/add if you have already had an AASU physics class, withdrawals will be recorded as WF except in cases of extreme hardship.

**General Information**

Feel free to stop by my office whenever you have a question or just want to talk. It’s especially easy to reach me by e-mail. E-mail is also the quickest way to arrange a meeting for whatever else you may need. **This syllabus is subject to modifications (which will be announced in class) during the semester.**