

Keep this syllabus in your binder for the whole semester.

Wheeler High School

PHYSICS

Fall 2018

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[Blocks 1 & 3]
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Physics Collaborative Team: Dr. Ritchie, Mrs. Stalcup, Mr. Quinlan, Mr. Thigpen

Course Summary

Welcome to Physics! Physics is the study of the fundamental laws and principles that govern how the Universe works. It is the foundational science because all other sciences are built upon the laws of physics. This course will cover a number of basic physics concepts, including motion, forces, momentum, energy, waves, and electromagnetism. Besides increasing your knowledge of physics, this course will also focus on teaching you science and engineering practices and concepts that are important for all areas of science. In this way, you will be trained to think and act like a scientist. You will develop a greater science literacy that will continue to benefit you as you move on to college and careers in the 21st century, whether you pursue science or not. The Cobb Teaching and Learning Standards for this course can be accessed through the following website:

<http://academics.cobbk12.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Cobb-Physics-Standards-2018-2019.pdf>

Cobb County Grading Scale

A = 100-90%
B = 89-80%
C = 79-74%
D = 73-70%
F = below 70%

Grade Weighting

Assessments (exams & quizzes)	55%
Labs, Activities, & Projects	25%
Classwork & Homework	10%
Midterm & Final Exam	10%

Textbook

Georgia Physics by Serway & Faughn

Each student will be given an online account with access to an electronic version of the textbook and other resources. Students will not be given a physical copy of the textbook.

Required Materials

The following items are essential for success in the class and should be brought every day:

- One three-ring binder (at least 1½ inch)
- One set of binder tab dividers (at least 8 tabs)
- One notebook (composition style is preferred, graph paper is helpful)
- Scientific calculator (must do trig functions [sin, cos, tan], I will be using the Texas Instruments TI-30XIIS in class demonstrations, it can be purchased for about \$10)
- Pens (blue or black) and pencils (#2)
- Paper

If you have a financial difficulty with getting these items, please speak to me privately so that we can come to an alternative arrangement.

Tentative Unit Schedule

The Methods of Physics
Kinematics
Forces
Application of Forces
Momentum & Impulse
Work & Energy
Waves, Sound, & Light
Electricity & Magnetism
Modern Physics

Grading Periods

First 6 weeks Sep 12
Second 6 weeks Oct 31
Third 6 weeks Dec 21

Student Holiday Schedule

Labor Day Sep 3
Fall Break Sep 24-28
Election Day Nov 6
Thanksgiving Break Nov 19-23

Behavioral Expectations

1. Treat all others with respect in your words and your actions.
 - This includes paying attention whenever someone else in the classroom is speaking and not talking while they are, not putting down or mocking others, not using inappropriate language (e.g. curse words, slurs, derogatory names), keeping appropriate volume for the classroom, not bullying, keeping hands and feet to one's self, no horseplay, cleaning up after yourself, and not touching things that don't belong to you.
2. Contribute to class and group discussions. Do not be afraid to take a risk or to be wrong.
 - The class will only be what you contribute to it. Remember: science is all about exploring the unknown and making educated guesses. Scientists are wrong all the time! That is why we perform experiments, to see if our guesses are right or wrong. It is okay to be wrong about something as long as we learn from it and change our beliefs for the future.
3. Raise your hand to get the teacher's permission before speaking or leaving your seat.

4. Be in your seat and ready to learn by the time the final bell rings and sit in the seat to which you have been assigned.
5. Follow all laboratory safety guidelines and instructions from the teacher and do not use materials or equipment in ways they are not intended to be used or without permission.

Classroom Policies

Absences & Assignment Makeup Daily class attendance is extremely important for success in this course. Assignments missed during an excused absence can be made up. It is the student's responsibility to check what he or she missed, complete it, and return it on time. Missed assignments are due the number of days absent plus one day after returning. For example, if a student is absent for three days, he or she will have four days to make up the missed assignments. Assignments missed due to an unexcused absence will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor. Otherwise, a score of zero will be given.

- Missed labs: Students are responsible for scheduling a time to make up missed labs with the instructor. In some situations, an alternative assignment or lab may need to be assigned.
- Missed assessments: Since assessments (exams and quizzes) will be announced in advance, a student who misses an assessment day should be ready to take it on the day he or she returns from the absence. If a student is absent for multiple days before an assessment, the instructor may delay the assessment to give the student time to get caught up with the material. Students are responsible for scheduling a time to make up assessments.

Attendance Incentive Policy (Final Exam Exemption) A student may exempt one non-AP course final exam per semester and all AP class final exams if the following criteria are met. Students may not exempt the final exam in a Post-AP course. Teachers keep all records on tardies, absences, and grades.

- a. Students must be enrolled within the first 3 days of the semester to qualify.
- b. Students may exempt if they meet the following grade AND attendance requirements:
 - 90% or above, no more than 3 absences
 - 80-89%, no more than 2 absences
 - 74-79%, no more than 1 absence
 - 70-73%, no absences
- c. Students may exempt any AP class final if they register for the AP Exam AND meet the grade and attendance requirement. If student exempts in the fall and fails to take the AP Exam, they may not qualify for exemption in the future.
- d. Student may NOT exempt End of Course Tests even if they meet the AIP criteria.
- e. An assignment to ISS, OSS or Admin Detention voids the exemption for the semester of the incident.
- f. Any cheating incident voids the exemption for the semester of the incident.
- g. Please refer to the attendance policies regarding full day absences, early dismissals, and late arrivals/tardies.

- h. Approved school field trips, recognized religious holidays, two approved official college visits (Seniors ONLY), and approved Senior Project mentor visits (signed off form) do not count against the AIP exemption.

Late Work Students will be notified of due dates for all assignments. If an assignment is not turned in on the due date, an automatic score of zero will be entered in the gradebook until the assignment is submitted and graded. Late assignments are placed below current assignments in grading priority.

- Late penalty: If a late assignment is totally completed and submitted six (6) or more school days after the original due date, the score entered in the gradebook will be 50% of that earned by the work. Late work submitted six or more school days after the due date that is incomplete will remain a score of zero.
- First half of semester: Late work on assignments from the first half of the semester will be accepted until **October 9**, which is one week before the midterm exam. Any first half assignments not turned in by this date will remain a permanent score of zero.
- Second half of semester: Late work on assignments from the second half of the semester will be accepted until **December 7**, which is two weeks before the final exam. Any second half assignments not turned in by this date will remain a permanent score of zero.

Tardies Students are expected to be in their seats and ready to learn when the final bell rings. Any student not in his or her seat and without a signed pass from a teacher or administrator when the final bell rings will be marked tardy. If you are late to class, quietly enter the room, give your pass to the instructor (if you have one), and find your seat without causing a disruption or distraction during instruction. For the consequences of repeated tardies, refer to the Student Handbook. Note: the first consequence for excessive tardies is administrative detention, which makes one ineligible for final exam exemption at the end of the semester.

- Block 1 students who arrive after 8:30 need to get a late pass from the attendance office.
- Students in all other blocks who arrive more than 15 minutes late without a signed pass will receive an administrative referral.

Cheating Cheating is a serious violation of behavioral expectations and academic honesty. It will not be tolerated. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:

- Copying someone else's work or answers for an assignment
- Sharing photos of your work with others
- Using someone else's words or ideas without giving them credit (plagiarism)
- Accessing unapproved information during an exam or quiz (e.g. notes, cheat sheets, using a cell phone, calculator, or other electronic device without permission)
- Sharing information about what is on an exam or quiz with others who have not taken it yet
- Talking with another student while taking an exam or quiz
- Viewing or stealing questions or an answer key to an exam or quiz
- Buying or selling assignments or papers

Consequences when cheating is discovered include, but are not limited to:

- A zero on the assignment for all students involved (including any student who willingly allows his or her work to be copied)
- Phone call home
- Conference with student and/or parent
- Referral to administrator

When it comes to cheating, just DON'T DO IT. More information on the cheating policy can be found in the Student Handbook.

Cell Phones & Other Electronics While cell phones can be used for learning purposes, they can also be a source of distraction that interferes with learning. Unless the instructor directs the students otherwise, all cell phones and other electronic devices (including headphones) are expected to be silenced and kept in the student's backpack during class time.

Leaving the Classroom Students must get permission from the instructor before leaving the classroom for any reason. Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom to use a vending machine. Any student caught leaving the classroom under false pretenses will lose all privileges for leaving the classroom.

Restroom Use: Permission to use the restroom will only be granted during pauses in instruction. Unless it is an emergency, students should not disrupt a lesson by asking to use the restroom during active instruction. Students must use the restrooms on the second floor of the Science Building and should be gone for no more than 5 minutes. As a condition for using the restroom during the class period, the student's cell phone will be placed in the instructor's locked cabinet for the remainder of the period. By school policy, no restroom trips will be permitted during the first and last 15 minutes of the class period. Excessive restroom requests or time spent on restroom visits will lead to a conference with the instructor and possible restriction of restroom use.

School Nurse: Unless it is an emergency, students should wait for a pause in instruction before requesting to visit the school nurse. Any student who does not return to class with his or her hall pass signed and time stamped by the nurse will be considered to be skipping.

Food & Drink Water is allowed in the classroom as long as it is in an enclosed container. All other food and drinks may not be consumed in the classroom. The only exception is for Block 1 students with a school breakfast, provided any mess is cleaned up and all trash is placed in a trash can.

Laboratory Safety Physics labs are generally safer than other science classes, but they can still injure you or others. Students must always follow proper laboratory safety measures and follow the directions of the instructor. Students who neglect laboratory safety will have their lab privileges revoked.

Consequences

Consequences for inappropriate classroom behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal warning
- Moved to another seat
- Sent to a neighboring classroom
- Parent phone call
- Teacher conference
- Detention (administrative or with the teacher)
- Referral to an administrator

Tutoring

Wheeler High School offers free after school tutoring for a variety of classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:45-5:00 in the Cafeteria. Talk to the instructor for a permission form. The physics teachers at Wheeler will also be available for tutoring. Tutoring times will be announced or a student can talk to a teacher to schedule an appointment. Students should come to tutoring having already self-assessed their areas of struggle so that the tutor can know what areas to focus on.

Disclaimer

It is impossible to include every classroom policy in one syllabus. In addition, the instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus during the course of the semester. If a change is made, the students will be clearly informed of the change.

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am happy to be teaching your son or daughter this semester! Parents are the most important educators in the lives of their children. I look forward to working with you as a team to ensure the greatest level of success for your son or daughter. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or comments, or you want to schedule a classroom visit, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will respond to an email or phone call within 24 hours.

Please read through the class syllabus given to your child so that you understand the expectations and policies of the course. Then, please fill in the contact information and sign below.

Sincerely,

Mr. Quinlan

Mr. Thigpen [Blocks 1 & 3]

I have read the class syllabus provided by the teacher. I understand what is required to be successful in the class.

STUDENT NAME: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN PHONE NUMBER: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN EMAIL: _____

If your child has any health concerns or there is anything else you want me to know about your child, please write it on the back of this sheet.